SCRAMBLE FOR A BETTER **CLASS OF BARGAIN** How to cash in with the sales

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER 1995



Mercy mission: Members of the Stornoway Coastguard rescue team land at Lerwick in Shetland with a patient suffering from hypothermla

Billions at stake as Forte steps up takeover war

MATHEW HORSMAN

profile takeover battle into £1bn agreed sale of its Happy Eater and Little Chef restaurant chains to brewing and catering giant Whitbread.

The move, part of an increasingly desperate defence against an unwanted £3.2bn and leisure company, led City. The deal with Whitbread, which analysts to admit that the is conditional on the Company. takeover battle was now too close to call.

If the restaurant deal goes through, Whitbread, already the owners of Pizza Hut, TGIF and Beefeaters, will become the UK's largest restaurant operator - bigger even than market leader McDonald's - when it takes on Forte's 430 Little Chef and Happy Eater outlets.

The embattled hotels and long-running television soap restaurant group Forte yester-opera Coronation Street which restaurant group Forte yester- opera Coronation Street which day pitched the City's highest is run by the cheerful but ruthless Gerry Robinson, one of

managers. : Granada's £3.2bn bid has galvanised management at Forte, which has sold off companies worth £160m since the offer was launched, in a desbid lapsing, has raised the bid stakes to fever pitch.

Whitbread's late entry into the saga means that three of the UK's most influential companies, which between them own pubs, luxury hotels, restaurants, two ITV television companies and a retail chain, are now battling centre-stage in what bas become one of the bitterest The agreement is the latest struggles in recent memory.

and Granada, the maker of the day. Mr Robinson, Granada's emerged over the Christmas Christmas pudding," he said. long-tunning television soap laish-born chief executive, said holiday weekend, as Mr Robinson responded: "I from Donegal: "This is certainly a brilliant deal from Whitbread's point of view, but frenzied confusion, unveiling a the City's most respected it isn't in the best interests of [Forte] sharebolders." He claimed that Granada's management could double the prof-

its of Forte's restaurant business

within two years.

son was spending time at his family bome in Ireland. Forte Chairman Sir Rocco Forte, who was forced to rush back to London from a shoot in Yorkshire last month when Granada unveiled its initial offer relished turning the tables on his absent adversary yesterday.

The Whitbread empire

Whitbread's outlets if the Forte deal goes ahead: Public houses: 2,600 Thresher's off-licences: 1,603 Pizza Hut: 239 (plus 100 takeaways) Beefeater pubs: 270 TGI Friday restaurants: 18 Brewer's Fayre pub restaurants: 230 (pius 50 opening this financial year) Costa Coffee cafés: 41 Little Chef and Happy Eater: 430 Travelodge budget hotels: 127 Welcome Break motorway services: 26

Cote France motorway services: 55

salvo in the highly hostile and Granada, predictably, criti-personal battle between Forte cised the proposed sale yester-gotiations with Whitbread didn't have time to finish his veiling of Granada's hostile bid

bad plenty of time to finish." and added that the deal did not worry him. "Shareholders must now make a choice as to whether they prefer this offer or our more generous offer for the whole of Forte."

If Sir Rocco, the heir to the Rocco family's hotels and catering business, manages to pull off the Whitbread deal, be will be left with a company only twothirds its original size but with most of its hotels business intact and with deht virtually wiped out. Sir Rocco said yesterday: "The whole point of our strategy is to get down to being a focused hotel group." Forte owns the luxury Grosvenor House in London, as well as five-star

properties in Europe. engaging in a firesale dumping to about £3.8bn. of assets, and says the man- Pressure on Granada, page 16 agement only began to act

last month.

Sir Rocco disputes this, claiming that the group had already embarked on a restructuring, and that Granada was attempting to get Forte on the cheap, just before the hotel cycle swings upward again.

The dramatic battle is expected to continue into next week as Granada considers whether to raise its offer and Forte continues to seek buyers for non-core businesses. Forte is also expected to promise a special dividend for shareholders if they agree to dismiss the Granada hid and stick with

current management.
Unless it decides to throw in the towel - unlikely, say insiders - Granada will now have to come back with a sweetener, which analysts expect will have Granada accuses Forte of to top £600m, to take the offer

Comment, page 17

Boy, 16, freezes to death as Britain suffers in the snow

...but experts say it's hottest year ever

NICHOLAS SCHOON

Much of Britain may be freezing in sub-zero temperatures and heavy snowfalls, but the world as a whole is now expetiencing the final days of the warmest year since reliable

records began.
With 11 months' data gathered from every continent and ocean, British climate experts are confident 1995 will emerge as the bottest in the last 140 years. This adds appreciably to the growing weight of evidence that pollution is detectably al-

tering the earth's climate.
The 10 warmest years since 1860 have been since 1982, and the top 4 places all belong to the 1990s, according to the Mete-orological Office's Hadley Centre and the University of East

But the forecasters were yesterday registering figures at the other end of the scale. In Scotland, Tulloch Bridge in the south-west Highlands was among the coldest places in the world, matching Helsinki and Stockholm at minus 20c, and colder than Moscow, with minus 18C. At minus 8c, temperatures were less extreme in the Western Isles, the Shetland Isles and parts of Aberdeen and Inverness, the areas affected by power cuts which had left some people without heat or light for four days. All hut 100 of the 1.500 people still without pow-

er had been reconnected last John Colquhoun, 16, froze to death while trying to walk less are already under way. The balthan three miles to his home after a car accident. He collapsed in sub-zero temperatures only a mile from the scene of the accident early on Christmas Day. He and his friend had tried to walk to their respective houses

after their car skidded off the road and became stuck in snow. near Mauchline, Avrshire.

His sister, Mandy, 19, said: "He was wearing just a thin jacket and it had started snowing hard when be was trying to walk. As far as we know, he tried to find shelter, fell asleep and just died in the snow."

But leaving Britain's current cold snap aside, meteorologists have confirmed that from January to November this year, temperatures around the planet were, on average, 0.41 degrees Celsius above the long-term averages for the 30 years between 1961 and 1990.

The current record-holder is 1990, for which the "anom-- the departure from the 1961-90 average - is 0.36 degrees. The experts are confident that even if the globe as a whole experiences an unusually cold December in 1995, it will be too late to prevent this year from emerging as the bottest.

"It's very unlikely that 1995 will not be the warmest year," said David Parker, in charge of climate records at the Department of the Environment-funded Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research in Bracknell, Berkshire.

The scientists use average temperatures from land stations and ships in estimating how much warmer or cooler the world has been than the 30-year "average of the averages"

Government climate scientists from around the world have now advised politicians that man-made climate shifts ance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate," they con-cluded at a United Nations' meeting in Madrid last month.

TURN TO PAGE 3

Prisons drop plan to ease overcrowding

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government is set to abandon some of its basic standards of care for prisoners as governors struggle with record num-bers of inmates and shrinking

document reveals that the service is to jettison its policy on reducing cell overcrowding and is set to reduce the number of hours that inmates are allowed to spend out of cells.

service is also considering closing up to three low security jails. a move likely to place even greater strains on the service. Those which Home Office sources have identified for posers of inmates and shrinking sible closure at a saving of udgets.

An internal Prison Service House, Kent, which holds 100 prisoners, Kirklevington, Cleveland, with 75 prisoners and North Sea Camp, Lincolnshire, an open jail holding 200. Staff, probation officers and

To save more money, the the risk of riot as pressure on the service grows. Work, education, probation and welfare services for inmates have already been cut in many jails as governors implement cuts of more than 13 per cent in the £1.60n prison budget over the next three years. An increasing prison population, which soared to 52,700 earlier this mouth, has led to immates being "doubled up" in single cells and locked up for prolonged periods.

Coming so soon after the

highlighted squalid conditions in Holloway prison, the threat to abandon basic standards has alarmed reformers. They say jail for the Strangeways riot.

conditions are deteriorating to levels of the late 1980s, identified by Lord Woolf as a trigger The inspectors at Holloway were said last week to have been ashamed at the filth and lack of care for vulnerable prisoners -the mentally ill, the abused, foreign nationals and pregnant

women - while the prison op-

erated an "overzealous securi-

Sheikh liked sale so much he bought the shop

ty" regime that included chaining women on hospital visits. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary for the National Association of Probation Officers, said Lord Woolf's agenda has now been all but abandoned: "1996 looks like being one of the grimmest in penal history. What is happening at Holloway should make the Prison Service rethink its decision to drop mendations. Officials have al-minimum hours out of cells ready decided the key proposal. from 12 to eight bours and

ought to use training and drug testing as indicators of a jail's performance, key recommendations of the recent Learmont inquiry into prison security and the escape from Parkhurst.

But overcrowding and the cash crisis facing the country's 134 jails places a question mark on many of the 127 recomto build a super-secure prison avoiding doubling up as jail's for the country's most danger-key performance indicators." for the country's most danger-ous inmates, is too costly.

IN BRIEF

MoD's £4bn overspend Officials at the Ministry of Defence have presided over cost overruns and write-offs totalling almost £4bn in the past year, according to new figures. Page 2

United close gap Manchester United reduced Newcastle United's lead at the top of the FA Carling Preinter-hip to seven points by defeating their rivals 2-0 at Old Page 24



reform groups have warned of prison inspectors' walk-out

A tradition as British as the Queen, the Christmas turkey and the Boxing Day fox-hunt-ing row was upheld yesterday when giant queues marked the start of the January sales.

Selfridge's in London notched up £1m of sales before lunch after more than 800 people queued six-deep for the

tomers in and out.

Martin Barnett, the owner of Charlotte's soft furnishings and furniture shop at Marble Arch, best of the bargains. The MetroCentre in Tyneside, Europe's biggest shop-ping complex, was besieged a sheikh and his aides walked in on Boxing Day and made an two hours before opening time The sheikh spoke through and one store in Sheffield was so packed it had to ration cus-

As cash registers jingled in I explained we weren't for sale, we were having a sale, "Mr Bar-nett said yesterday. But the sheikh was adamant. defiance of any gloomy eco-nomic forecast, one London store-owner had more good news than most in a remarkable echo of that advertising jingo, "It was so good I bought the company", an Arab sbeikh walked into one London store

Mr Barnett had sold a complete set of stock to the sbeikh's cousin, also a sheikh, last year. Their respective third wives discussed the purchase and the second sheigh decided he must and bought it.
Well, almost. According to have one too. Mr Barnett, being a cautious

man, telephoned Dubai for confirmation. The first sheikh confirmed that the second was an honourable man. Mr Barnett said a £5,000 cash down pay-The sheikh spoke through ment on the spot finally initiated Santa was last year arrested as an interpreter and said, What the £350,000 deal agreed a suspected illegal immigrant. is your lease? You're for sale.' yesterday.

Everything about the store, a family-run business producing hand-made furniture and providing Laura Ashley-like furnisbings, will now be reproduced in a shopping cen-tre in the Arab Emirates. "He said he liked the concept," Mr

Barnett said. A boon indeed for a firm struck by misfortune before Christmas when the French strikes made deliveries of £75,000 hand-made stock impossible. But then, Mr Barnett is no stranger to weird happenings. He was the man whose Santa was last year arrested as Sales guide, page 9

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BUSINESS 16-19 COMMENT 12,13 CROSSWORDS 2,24 EDUCATION 18 FILM 11 GAZETTE 14 LISTINGS 9 NEWS 2-8 SPORT 20-24 TV & RADIO 23

Defence chiefs 'wasted £4bn this year'

was budgeted at £1.1hn hut has cost £1.9hn - an £800m rise. A report by the National Audit Office, the public finance

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

Officials at the Ministry of Defence have presided over cost overruns and write-offs, "wasting" almost £4bn in the past year, according to figures released today.

These last 12 months must rank as an *annus horribilis, e*ven Promises by Michael Portillo. Secretary of State for Defence. that he would comfert waste into

weapons, so far have not been met, says Lahour, prompting the party to suggest that the department be renamed the 'Ministry of Waste", David Clark, Lahour's

defence spokesman, has compiled a report. "1995 - The Waste of a Year", detailing the MoD's financial mismanage-ment this year. Heading the list of horrors is the continued rise in the cost of the Eurofighter 2000 programme. The actual increase alone is now put at

£2.2hn, according to a parlia-mentary answer to Dr Clark. The delays in the project are teading to huge hills elsewhere.

The lives of the Tornado F3 and Jaguar aircraft are having to be extended until the Eurofighter is ready, at a cost of £104m.

watchdog, found that 23 of the MoD's 25 largest projects had a forecast total increase of £645m. The Army's £24m re-placement for the Land-Rover, The Trident submarine base the RB44 Army Light Vehicle, was taken out of service after a at Faslane on the Clyde was described as "mismanagement on a grand scale by the Commons series of crashes and technical problems. Its withdrawal meant the MoD had to buy 394 vehi-Public Accounts Committee. The construction of new facilities for Trident submarines cles from an Austrian firm to

send to the troops in Bosnia. More than £200m was invested in developing the Trigat long-range anti-tank missile. The MoD then decided to order a type of helicopter that did not

carry the Trigat system. In the weeks leading up to the Defence Costs Study when more than 18,000 people lost their jobs in military cuts, it was revealed that £380,000 had been spent refurbishing the home of Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson, Another £205,000 was spent on his previous residence in Germany. Hundreds of millions of

ounds has been wasted on refitting ships after the Cold War, which have now been put up for sale; the management of ministry telephone lines, the royal dockyards sell-off and disposing of the married quarters' estate were other areas which swallowed taxpayers' money. Obtaining the advice of consultants on the sale of the houses has absorbed £5m so far.

is lying dormant is the Prince of Wales, an airship bought for £2.6m for surveillance operations in Ulster. According to a parliamentary answer it was lamaged at Boscombe Down in

May, and cannot be repaired.

"These figures speak for themselves," said Dr Clark.

"The Government has failed signally to tackle waste in the MoD. Its incompetent approach is doing untold damage to Britain's armed forces."

Man on triple murder charge

Peter Moore: 49, was remanded in custody charged with the murders of three men after making a six minute appearance before magistrates in Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, yesterday.

Mr Moore, who owns a string of cinemas in North Wales, was charged with the murder of an unidentified man in Clocacnog Forest, Denbigh, Clwyd, be-tween 18 and 21 September. He has already been charged with murdering Tony Davies, 40, of Llystaen, on Pensarn Beach, Abergele, on 18 December, and Keith Raudells, 49, of Chester, between 28 November and 1 December at a construction site in Anglesey.

Diana seeks sun

As the Princess of Wales left London Heathrow airport on an aircraft bound for Antigua in the West Indies it was speculated that she was heading for Nevis, a tiny island 20-mmutes from Antigua by air, which she visited three years ago with Princes William and Harry. The boys are spending Christmas and the new year with the Prince of Wales.

Beef sales suffer

Up to 1.4 million homes have stopped huying heef as fears have grown over the threat to humans from mad cow disease. the marketing company Nielsen claimed. There has been a steady decline in beef buying since the beginning of Novem ber and by the week ending 16 December sales were down more than 25 per cent com-pared with the same time in

TV ratings battle

The BBC claimed a Boxing Day victory in the Christmas ratings battle. BBC1 had seven out of the top ten programmes, ac-cording to unofficial figures, with comedies The Thin Blue Line and Goodnight Sweethean, film blockbusters Patriot Games (most popular, with 11.2 million viewers) and Beethoven and EastEnders in the top five. ITV, whose top showing was Michael Barrymore's My Kind Of People at sixth with 9.9 million, said BBC1's Boxing Day share of peak audience was slightly down on last year's, although their figures excluded regional programming.

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ack issues of the included and the single

Simpler government: Ministers to report monthly Heseltine leads new attack on red tape JOHN RENTOUL in 1992, when he was President mitted to Mr Heseltine or his Political Correspondent of the Board of Trade, Since deputy, Roger Freeman, the then the Government's dereg-The Government's war against ulation unit, for which he retains Mr Heseltine's Cabinet com-Whitehall red tape is to be mittee on domestic policy has "stepped up" for at least the

tenth time since the last election, as it emerged vesterday that ministers are to be ordered to present a monthly report to Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, on any planned new regulations.

April 1992 John Major's election mannesto promises to simplify rules and regulations on business."

conference speech to "nack back" the "jungle of red tape

December 1992 Prime Minister demands 'a bonfire of

February 1993 Major calls in all Cabinet ministers to Downing Street seminar and orders a "new assault on Whitehall red tape"

July 1993 Another semmar. Major suggests a "substantiat" deregulation Bill and challenges ministers to bring forward more proposals

cheer wildly as deregulation minister. Neil Hamilton nos up

● January 1994 Heseltine puolishes Deregulation Bill, claiming to have lil a match under the "largest bordire of controls that has taken place in modern times in this country"

September 1995 Heselone, now deputy PM, "steps up" the battle against red tape with a vow to abolish one "outdated and meddlesome" regulation a week

November 1995 Heseltine, flanked by four Cabinet ministers, launches "War on Waste" al Westminster news

Chevening, the Foreign Secretary's residence, decides that ministers must report monthly to Heseltine on any planned

December 1995 Yet another seminar, this lime at

conference costing several thousand pounds

October 1992 'Tarzan' Heseltine told in Major's

controls", echaing Harold Wilson's post-war pledge

Mr Heseltine was charged by the Prime Minister with "hacking back the jungle of red tape"

responsibility as John Major's deputy, has identified 1,000 regulations for abolition.

But right-wingers point out that the Government creates about 1,400 statutory instruments - rules which do not need parliamentary approval every year. Hence the requirement, from 1 January, for a monthly report justifying new statutory instruments to be sub-

also ordered ministers to stop "gold-plating" European di-rectives - when departments make regulations which are more restrictive than required to satisfy European law. Ministers are believed to have criticised draft Home Office fire regulations which were fell to

go further than EU safety law. The renewed initiative against red tape follows a seminar earlier this month at Chevening, Kent, the Foreign Secretary's residence, reported in yesterday's Financial Times. The meeting is said to have identified four areas where red tape could be cut: health and safety, food hygiene, building regulations and taxpaying.

However, the Labour Party vesterday was scornful of the plan, "Declaring war on red tape is one of those things Tory ministers always do when they are in need of an applause injection," said a Labour spokesman. He pointed to recent analysis which showed that 71 per cent of the regulations now in force had been introduced since the Conservatives were elected in

The first high-profile drive against red tape was the review by the Marks & Spencer boss. Sir Derek Rayner, in 1982. Lord Young of Graffbam, then a Cahinet minister, promised to create jobs by cutting regulations affecting small husiness es, and legislation followed. Mr Major again promised to

"simplify rules and regulations" in his 1992 election manifesto. Since then, however, the tide has showed little sign of turning. A year later, small husi-

nesses reported a "significant" increase in red tape, with the Government and the European Commission held to be equally responsible. The crusade also suffered a

setback when the trade minister responsible, the right-winger Neil Hamilton, was forced to resign in October last year over "cash for questions" row.

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AVE TO SEEN THIS GIRL?

Help us find Celine, begs father

DANNY PENMAN

The anguished father of Celine Figard, the French student who disappeared while hitch-hiking near Newbury nine days ago, ap-pealed for the return of his daughter vesterday.

Ms Figard, 19, disappeared after accepting a lift from a lorry driver at the Granada services on the A34 at Chieveley near Newbury in Berkshire.

The driver who picked up Ms Figard, an accountancy student, could have offered to lake her to Salisbury. From there she intended to get a bus to Fordingbridge, Hampshire, to spend Christmas with her cousin.

Her father, Bernard, said: Celine, if you can hear us, if you can see us. please show yourself. Your family and

friends are waiting.

Mr Figard, 44, a farmer from

the village of Ferrieres-Les-



Celine: Seen hitching a lift. Right: An Identikit of the driver

"timid hut very happy person" who was serious about her school work. He appealed for any information that might help the police find his daughter. He said: "Please keep helping us. We need to find Celine."

Detective Superintendent Des Thomas, who is leading the enquiry which has been up-

TODAY'S FORECAST: IT WITH



Scey. 220 miles south-east of graded into a murder investi-Paris, said his daughter was a gration, said: "We all hope and

pray we will find Celine alive it will be the best thing that could happen - hut experience has shown that is not necessarily the case after this amount of time. I wish it were otherwise. "I have no doubt at all we will find this lorry driver. My great concern is we will not find him in time to recover Celine."

slightly built, 5ft tall, with brown wavy shoulder-length hair and storic Newspapers, saleptione 0088 402455. Housing market 'revival'

CLIFFORD GERMAN

A row hroke out yesterday over the prospects for the housing market, the health of which could have a decisive influence on the next election.

Hard on the heels of a report from the Halifax Building Society forecasting a modest re-vival next year, Labour's housing spokesman Nick Raynsford rushed to counter the traces of optimism in the report, and hismed the Government for the continuing depressed state of the market.

Hundreds of thousands of people have had their homes repossessed and many more are in negative equity, Mr Raynsford said, quoting a recent re-port by the stockbrokers UBS Phillips & Drew which esti-mated that 1.4 million people

third quarter of the year, an increase of nearly 30 per cent on

challenged by Labour

More than 100 officers are

now involved in the investiga-

tion. Police spent yesterday

searching roads between New-hury and Salisbury, but appar-ently found no trace of Ms

Detectives are also examin-

ing video footage from surveil-

ance cameras at the service

station where she disappeared.

The search will resume at first

and an artist's impression of the

lorry driver. The driver is de-

scribed as well-built, ginger-haired, and has a distinctive

chinstrap-style beard with no

He was driving a white Mer-cedes truck which was towing a

light grey 38-40 tonne refriger-

ated box trailer. Ms Figard is

light today

moustache.

Rather than helping homeowners in difficulty, the Chancellor has cut mortgage tax relief and reduced help to unemployed homeowners, Mr Raynsford said. Although the Halifax admits

the Chancellor did nothing directly to help revive the housing market in last month's Budget, it is forecasting a 10 per cent increase in the number of properties changing hands next year and again in 1997, but only a 2 per cent rise in prices next year, rising to perhaps 5 per cent in 1997 and 1998. The forecast is based on the fact that mortgage interest rates are at historically low levels, and more importantly, many people now

were in negative equity in the believe interest rates are likely to remain at these levels or even fall further, the Halifax argues.

House prices are once again

low relative to incomes after

falling an average 15 per cent over the last six years, mortgage rates have started falling again io recent weeks, earnings are slowly edging upwards, per-sonal taxation will come down in April, and many experts agree that the outlook for the housing market is better than at any time since 1989_ This is counterbalanced, how-

ever, by continuing job insecurity, cuts in income support for those who do lose their jobs, and increasing pressure on individ-uals to pay for insurance policies and pension plans as well as savings and investment schemes, for any surplus income."

Hostage parents' hopes fade

IAMES CUSICK London MUKTAR AHMED

Parents of a British hostage held in northern India said their "hopes were crushed" yesterday, when the Foreign Office rejected reports that a British negotiator was talking to the

Mavis Mangan's son, Keith, one of two Britons

held hostage by Kashmiri separatists for almost six months. An American and a German are also being held captive by

the militant group, known as al-Paran.

Tim Devlin, Tory MP for Stockton South, where Mrs Mangan lives, said the Foreign Office had informed him that the kidnappers had agreed to deliver Christmas gifts to the hostages. The gifts included winter clothing and tapes and letters from the Mangans and

the family of the other British hostage. Paul Wells. He also said he had been told by the Foreign Office that the High Commission in India "had made contact" with the kidnappers. Mrs Mangan told the Inde-

pendent she was telephoned by the Foreign Office yesterday and told to ignore Mr Devlin's comments. "We were told there was no truth in what he said. There had been no meeting. No negotiations at all.

We were so disappointed.

One minute we were all on cloud nine. Now we are simply crushed to the floor again.

However the Foreign Office denied the two versions of the actions were contradictory. A

spokesman said. "We are not confused. "However we can make no comment on this."

concise crossword



- **ACROSS** India (3)
- Soft soggy mass (4) Expectation (12) 10 Greatest possible de-
- gree (6) 12 Percy ... Shelley (6) 14 Estate car (7.5) 18 Trademark (4) Revelation, jolt (8)

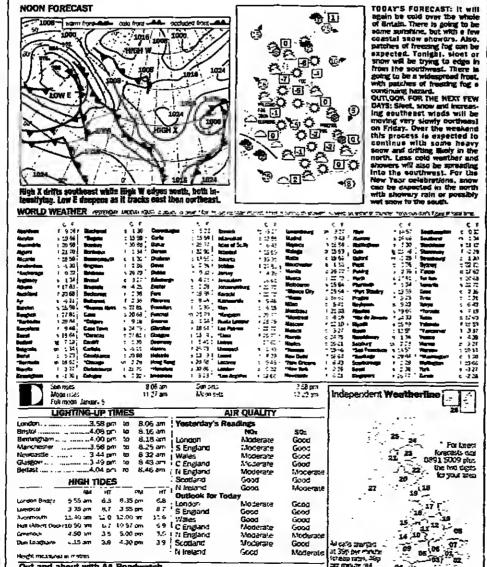
20 English river (5) 21 Grass as fodder (3) Solution to yesterday's Coocise Crossword:

- Bold and chivalrous (7) District on W coast of Alarm, warning (5) Young offspring of dog, wolf etc (5) Assess, ponder (5) Estrange (8)
 - Catalyst, momentum 5 Word of greeting (5) 6 Good luck charm (6) II Result (7)
 - 12 Guard against (6) 13 Truthfulness (7) 15 Game fish (5) 16 Beginning (5)

Across: 1 Rubber, 4 Sheep (Rubbish-heap), 8 Swami, 9 Hessian, 10 Leather, 11 Rear, 12 Kit, 14 Join, 15 Arch, 18 Yew, 21 Ruse, 23 Irksome, 25 Baghdad, 26 Vault, 27 Evade, 28 Gritty, Down; 1 Result, 2 Bravado, 3 Epiphany, 4 Sash, 5 Elite, 6 Penury, 7 Shark, 13 Talk over, 16 Croquet, 17 Treble, 19 Wilde, 20 Sentry, 22 Sigma, 24 Edge

weather

NOON FORECAST



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Millenniu fund £8m



The big freeze: Government embroiled in dispute over bad-weather hand-outs as accused firm stays defiant over services

Cold comfort' payments row boils over

JOJO MOYES

Cold weather payments of £8 50 a week are to be paid to house Scotland and northern England, the Department of Social curity said yesterday. It said payments had so far

been triggered in nearly all Scotland, Tyneside, Teesside, Carlisle, Manchester, Birming-ham, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, West Midlands and Wiltshire, with other areas expected to be included as the Arctic conditions continue.

But MPs and campaigners said that the payments should be higher and that the Government's stringent criteria meant too many families would

Scottish Labour MP George Foulkes, chairman of the allparty pensioners' group, said the scheme should be revised to take account of the exceptionally cold weather in Scotland and the north, where temperatures have plunged to minus

Payments are triggered when temperatures fall or are pre-dicted to fall to freezing or below for seven days in a specific area. They are only paid to three groups on income support -families with children under five, the disabled and longterm sick, and all pensioners.

Mr Foulkes called for a "double premium" to be paid when the temperature fell to minus 10C for 24 hours or longer. John Crowe, of the Nation-

al Right to Fnel Campaign, said that many households would be left with high fuel bills, or out in the cold. "Any family receiving income

support, with a child over five, for example, will get nothing. That is wrong," he said. This was reiterated by Lady

Sally Greengross, director general of Age Concern, who said she was concerned that those above the income threshold would find it with all to face fuel bills later in the year. "It's time that the Government rethinks the cold weath-

er payment system so that all pensioners can keen wann all through the winter," she said. David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said the view, but that the scheme Prime Minister should intervene would be kept under review. to authorise payments in all ar-



Off the ralls: Two feet of snow stopped services at Filey station (above) and the rest of the Scarborough to Bridlington rail line yesterday

certainly justified, modest as they are, " he said.

Social security minister Andrew Mitchell said the Gov-ernment had to take "a prudent He told BBC Radio 4's Toeas of the country. "The weath- day programme: "The Governer is sufficiently barsh, and ment recognises that hearing a

government minister talking about cold weather payments when you have got temperatures of minns 15C in the north of Scotland can be rather irritating for those who are battling against those conditions - and we do recognise the impor-tance of an annual review."

Pressed about situations

cold for a prolonged period but did not meet the Government criteria exactly, he said: "We northern Scotland. have to take a prudent view. These paymeois are meant to deal with very severe weather".

All but 100 of the 1,500 homeswithout power in the Shetland and oorthern Scotland had been reconnected by last where the weather had been night, as privatised power com-

pany Hydro-Electric defended its handling of the crisis in

A spokesman for the company said that Western Isles Labour MP Calum MacDonald, who claimed staff shortages at the firm may have contributed to the problems, was "ill-in-formed" and that there were oo job cuts among field staff. "Our men have been working in outrageously difficult conditions. We do have sufficient people to

do the joh but circumstances were beyond our control." With the cold weather set to continue uotil the New Year, fresh snow contioued to cause havoc on all roads in the north and north-east yesterday, with the coastal areas of North York-

shire worst affected by snow and

Most of Wales was covered with a blanket of snow six inches deep vesterday morning and the big freeze also took a firm grip on Northern Ireland, where temperatures plunged to a December record of minus 13C. The AA said it had been in-

undated with breakdown calls.

Small is profitable for power company

Scottish Hydro-Electric, which is the main electricity distributor for the north of Scotland, is one of Britain's smallest power generators, writes Juju Moyes.

Privatised in 1991, it was the only company in Britain tast year to defy the advice from Offer, the electricity regulator, to tower its prices and it was subsequently referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which produced what Scottish Hydro-Electric called 'a tough but fair" report in June this year saying that customers' hills should be cut.

Earlier this month is reported half-yearly profits of £65m.



The increased income has been largely due to a massive sales drive south of the border. More than a third of the company's total electricity sales and 30 per cent of its total turnover is now accounted for in England.

In September it told its 3,500 workers that it aimed to cut costs by 20 per cent over the oext two and a half years, just three months after it annouoced record profits of £200m and earned its shareholders profits of £53m.

Despite this, Hydro, as it is known, has geoerally attracted less criticism than some of the other privatised utility companies. The MMC report led to plans to cut hills by \$.5 per cent. saving customers an average £63 over three years. And the chairman. Lord Wilson of Tillyorn. collects a relatively modest salary - compared with those in other privatised utilities - of £130,000.

Why 1995 was the hottest year

FROM PAGE ONE

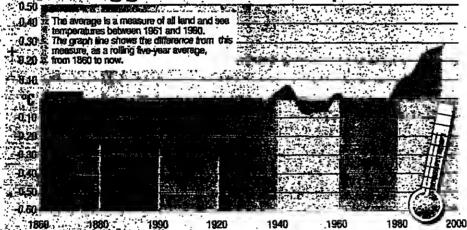
The warming is predicted to accelerate gradually through the next century, with temperature rises faster than any since the last Ice Age ended 10,000 years ago. The cause is the billions of tomes of carbon dioxide and the heat-trapping "greenhouse gases" poured into the atmosphere each year, mostly from the burning of fossil fuels and

By 1860, enough temperature readings were taken all over planet's land surface and seas to begin a comprehensive global record - only the Antarctic.

ing by then.

Prior to that, temperatures have to be inferred from a va-riety of sources which offer much poorer global coverage -tree growth rings, the number of days for which rivers were icecovered, the length of glaciers and the ratio of isotopes of common gases trapped in bubbles within Arctic and Antarctic ice.

Rising global land and sea temperatures



have begun around 1920, then halted for 30 years before resuming at the end of the 1970s. A steady, even rise is impos-

The global warming since the earth's highly complex clife that 1996 will be slightly cooling that the slightly cooling and space. It appears to temperatures fluctuate marked that 1996 will be slightly cooling that the slightly cooling the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling the slightly cooling the slightly cooling the slightly cooling that the slightly cooling th ly without any human influence; factors such as volcanic eruptions and changes in sea cursible because of the vagaries of The British scientists forecast

warmth this year, but the current freeze may stop it beating 1990 ioto being England's Get down to business with the Dell Dimension P75t PC package. It's unbeatable. It comes pre-loaded and ready-to-run with Microsoft® Windows and Office '95 software. So it's quick and hassle free, making it ideal for the office environment. And, as you'd expect from Dell, you get all the back-up you need from our Openline Hardware Technical Support available throughout the life of your system. Call us

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Millennium cash sought to fund £8m inventors' centre

DANNY PENMAN

A group of British busine is trying to raise money for a na-tional centre to help inventors commercialise their inventions. Inventors have for decades

bemoaned the fact that Britain consistently fails to commer-cialise its intellectual discoveries. Televisions, microwave ovens, digital watches, pocket calculators and computers were all developed in Britain; but are predominantly made abroad.

The proposed centre is aimed at helping people with technical ideas put them into practice in the United Kingdom rather than see them commercialised by foreign competi-tors. Trever Baylis, one of the scheme's backers and inventor of a clockwork radio for developing countries, said: "Inventors need a safe haven where they can explain their ideas and they won't get laughed at."

A proposal for the centre, put forward by the intellectual



Like clockwork: Trevor Baylis with his radio invention

federation - a "club" of about 350 inventors, has been sent to the Millennium Commission. The backers are seeking functions the commission, which distributes cash from the National Lottery, and a further 14m from the private sector. Not

agreed to contribute money to the centre and may provide some land

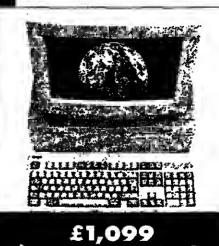
The centre will be expected to function along strictly commercial lines. Inventors with interesting but uncommercial ideas, such as new and innovatingham Trent University has tive ways of boiling water or making toast, are likely to be refused funding.

Andy Scott, director of the manufacturing industry section of the Confederation of British Industry, said the centre "could play a role" in revitalising the UK's business culture. "They're right in identifying a problem, that's for sure, but what the UK has been doing for the last few years is in put in place a series of business centres across the country to serve as the first port of call," Mr Scott said. The Business Link centres

are designed to help entrepre neurs put their ideas into prac tice. Help is provided with developing business plans, se-curing funding and finding es. There are currently about 150 centres in Britain with plans for a further 50.

A spokesman for the Institute of Inventors, welcomed the idea of a National Innovation Centre. He said it was a good idea, but feared that "because it's a good idea, it won't get millennium funding ...





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After three years, one month, 18 days and £1.7m, the Scott inquiry prepares to deliver its damning report

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

The long-awaited report of the Scott inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq scandal, which could threaten the careers of some ministers and senior Whitehall officials, goes to the printers

More than three years since the inquiry was set up, after the collapse of the Matrix Churchill triat in which government ministers were found to have withheld evidence helpful to the defendants' case, it is finally drawing to a close.

The report will mark a watershed in British politics opening the Government and Whitehall to unprecedented scrutiny and is likely to dominate the political arena for

It will soon be rolling off the presses at the HMSO printing plant in Bermondsey, south London, Produced in four volumes, with appendices, the mammoth document will run to

2.000 pages. The likefiest date is some time in the last week in Januhaving a besi-seller on its hands. that it has ordered thousands of copies, it will go on sale in HMSO's shops when the report is officially released.

That decision rests with lan-Lung, President of the Board of Trade, to whom, technically, the inquiry is reporting. He will receive an advance copy and must

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Sir Nicholas Lyell, Attorney General, could be criticised for asking Ministers to documents from the Matrix Churchill defendants

ary, or possibly in the first week

Parliament being informed Records Office at Kew for futhen decide, with the Prime ture generations to pore over, Minister and government managers, when it should be puband the Scott inquiry premises in Victoria will be returned to the Department of Trade and Industry, while the 13 staff will

Whether some of them will of February. The report will be presented to Parliament and will be welcomed back, after three he accompanied by a stateyears away, by their old colment, most probably from Mr. leagues remains to be seen. Few realised back in November 1992 Once the report is out, the inthat they were about to become quiry will start winding down its immersed in something quite so operation. The background pa-pers will be filed at the Public politically sensitive or, at times,

William Waldegrave, Chief

Secretary to the Treasury,

faces charges that he was

control guidelines without

go their separate ways.



Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, signed "gagging" order and has said he would resign if criticised by report though this is unlikely.

past few months.

Malcom Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, signed certificates, but is likely to be put in the clear by the

hostility towards the inquiry in Strangely, though, while atsome Government quarters appeared to soften.

inquiry report

tacks on the inquiry and its methods, notably from Lord Howe, raised the temperature Soon afterwards, reports up- and led to soul-searching on peared, saying that in the end the pan of some members of the only two current senior ministers - Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Atinquiry – there has been a torney General and William marked cooling-down in the Waldegrave. Chief Secretary to From mid-October onwards, the Treasury - would be directly say those close to the inquiry, eriticised. Sir Nicholas for proffering the advice to other minthere was a change of mood, on both sides. Sir Richard and his isters to sign the public interest staff suddenly seemed much immunity certificates that demore positive and definite as to nied the Matrix Churchill dewhen their report would appear. fendants a fair trial and Mr



Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, signed the Public Interest Immunity certificates but is not expected to be criticised by the report

Waldegrave for agreeing with two former ministers, Alao Clark and Lord Trefgarne, to change the guidelines on exports to Iraq and theo falling to tell Parliament.

If true - and nobody has offered any irrefutable evidence, and certainly oo direct quotes from the report have been produced to support the case there would be a collective sigh of relief oo the government be oches.

Compared with some predictions of what Sir Richard's

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Prime Minister, is certain to be cleared by Scott, after initially resisting Sir Nicholas Lyell's request to

sign the certificates 2,000 pages could contain, critcism of only Sir Nicholas and Mr Waldegrave is small beer. It would mean that three other Cabinet ministers, each of whom carry more political weight and would be more

colm Rifland, Foreign Secretary and Peter Lilley. Secretary of State for Social Security. At omes during the inquiry,

cusing him of not understand-ing the way Whitehall works and needs to work, of not giving peolowing their lawyers to cross-examine others - that it appeared the future of the Government itself was at stake. That feeling has been heightened by tough talk. The Prime Minister has intimated he may not necessarily accept the report's conclusions. Senior government sources have claimed that Mr Clarke, who once said he would resign if he was crit-icised by Scott, may find his resignation, if offered, was not

accepted. After all that two ministers in the frame would be seen as a damp squib. But Scott is about much more than ministers signing gagging orders. Around 60 officials are possible targets for criticism, for oot communicating with each other or for giving ministers incorrect information.

If that happens, and most senior ministers walk free or, are criticised but turn on their own prized targets for the Opposiofficials, the top civil servants' tion, have avoided blame. They union, the First Division Assoare Kenneth Clarke, the Chanciatioo, promises a battle.

cellor of the Exchequer. Mal-For the inquiry team and the Opposition - and most Tories desperate to put the whole thing behind them - Sir Richard's report cannot come such has been the vehemence soon enough.

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Scott inquiry: For the record Duration: 3 years, 1 month, 18 days (so far) Evidence: 200,000 pages of written material Witnesses: 270 submitted written evidence : 82 gave oral evidence 61 gave evidence in public, 21 in private Cost £1.7m Staff: 13 full-time, including the judge. Report: 4 volumes with appendices, totalling 2,000 pages plus 10,000 pages of evidence to be published later The key players



Sir Richard Scott, the Vice Chancellor of the High Court Chancery Division. Bigycles to work daily, wants to get back to full-time judging



chief interrogator for the inquiry, wants to return to practising at the Bar. She

is member of the chambers of Colli Ross-Munro, which specialises In compercial law and also includes Lord Lester Christopher Muthiliamanu secretary to the inquiry formenty worked in the treasury Solicitor's Department, Understood to want to return, which may be difficult if report criticises colleagues.

Pic

Buy any telepted Sa

David Price, press officer to the inquiry, fermenty at the Department of Health. He hopes to return to another press job in the government service. Close to

Suicide fears for 'bullied' boy

A missing schoolboy thought to have thrown himself into the sea was the victim of bullying, his father claimed yesterday. Eighteen-year-old Andrew

Smith disappeared more than two weeks ago. His hicycle aod back-pack were found yesterday hiddeo on a cliff top alongside the Old Harry Rocks, at Swanage, Dorset.

Extensive police searches for him using divers, tracker dogs and a coastguard helicopter have drawn a blank.

on 11 December at 8.40am. His father, Ken Smith, speaking from the family home in Parkstone, Poolc, said: "Until we get him back here we won't know for certain but we are 99 per cent sure he has gooe because of pranks and verbal abuse at school. From what we have learned since Andrew

seen at Poole Grammar School

went missing it has been going on for about six months.

'Apparently a group of about

The A-level student was last

it. He was also giveo verbal ahuse. He had been skipping school for about three weeks before he went missing." He said he had confronted teachers but had been told bullying could not have happened because it was oot tolerated at

about five miles away.

five or six so-called mates were

involved. They would do things

like go to a party together and

thought it was then a great idea to order a taxi but leave Andrew

to make his own way home from

"He never spoke to us about

the school.

Mr Smith, 55, said the family had not had any Christmas celebrations this year, "We haven't had a Christmas this year, it's as simple as that. We did the usual things like cook the

turkey but it might as well have been beans on toast," he said. Mr Smith and wife, Sally, 45. were due to travel to London to launch a television appeal for their son yesterday, while police were launching another search.



End of an era: Heritage group in mission to revitalise former miners' institutes

Charter to tackle fears over care of mentally ill The Government is to introduce special measures to combat concern about attacks on mem-

bers of the public by severely disturbed psychiatric patients. The move, disclosed yester-

day by the Secretary of State for in the community net. Health, Stephen Dorrell, sets tough new standards designed to make the streets safer.

The Mental Health Patient's

Charter will ensure: Patients get help from nurses or social workers, if they need

it, after discharge;

Home visits will be available within four hours for urgent cases and within two working days for non-urgent cases:

Patients will not be sent home if it is thought there could be the slightest risk to carers, relatives or the public; ■ Tough new time limits for as-

sessing a patient's illness aimed at reducing waiting lists;

Information on the effects of drugs and other treatments will be available for patients;

Patients will be allowed to . care, so that someone who is wear their own clothes, have acutely mentally ill has their personal possessions and more privacy in hospital while receiving treatment;

■ Patients can expect access to a lawyer if necessary and will be able to choose whether they want a man or woman to act as their key worker;

Explanation of diagnosis will ever, that in parts of the NHS, be made available;

Anyone detained for 28 days or more has the right to apply to a Mental Health Tribunal and get a medical opinion from an

independent doctor. . Mr Dorrell hopes the charter: charter. "Services for people consultation, to be officially un., with schizophrenia are not good veiled in the new year, will go enough. We need more re-some way to quelling public fears, sources across a spectrum of ser-about schizophrems which be vices from decent housing and gan in 1992 when longitude occupations to social support. Zito was killed by Christopher. The fear is that a charter is sim-Chans at Finshmy Park thic are: piy more paper that won't pro-tion in north London There wide what's needed.

warned NHS chairmen to improve standards and stop patients falling through the care

They were asked to review their services and report back to the Secretary of State. He is due to announce the outcome

of the exercise shortly.

Mr Dorrell said: "When there is public comment about the mental health services; people often latch on to the phrase care in the community and say this means the Government is not interested in hospital care, which isn't true.

"The phrase has become misleading because it has come to imply that the only type of mental health service we are interested in delivering is one based on community health and that is not the case.

What we are concerned to do is deliver a spectrum of acute needs met in a hospital; that there is care available in a sheltered setting for those who need it; that there is community care for those who need it; and crisis teams for meeting crisis need.

Mr Dorrell admitted, howwe have not succeeded in delivering standards of care that we would all want to see.".

· Kate Harrison of the mental health charity, Mind, said pa-tients needed more help, not a



Community centre: Doorman Mervyn Richards on duty at the Lewis Merthyr Working Men's Institute in Porth, Mid Glamorgan Photographs: Roh Stratton

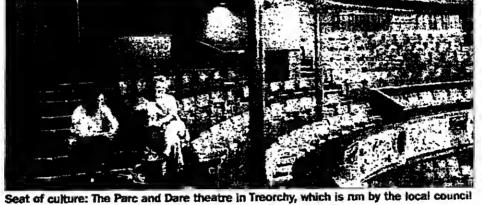
Symbols of pit pride running to ruin

MICHAEL PRESTAGE

The decline of the coal industry in South Wales is set to claim another victim: the miners' in-

Only about 50 of the original 350 or so buildings remain. The halls, now in a perilous state, once provided a centre for education and entertainment in the communities. The buildings date largely from around the turn of the century, with miners traditionally donating a penny a week of their wages for their construction and upkeep.

The Victorian Society believes efforts should be made to preserve a great tradition. Paul Brindley, of the South Wales branch, said: "The institute was a vital part of the community. In most towns and villages it was the most impressive building as



they were largely built at the beight of Victorian architecture. Without some protection more will fall into decay."

Many of the institutes have

permarkets or drinking clubs. Others have been lost through continued disrepair. Earlier this year. Nixon's Memorial Hall in Mountain Ash was gutted been turned into bingo halls, su- by a fire. A similar fate befell

the institute in Aberaman. But some do still survive and play a valuable role. One of the biggest is the Parc and Dare Institute in the Rhondda town of Treorchy. The theatre has been

fully restored and doubles as a cinema. The rooms have a variety of uses, from a dance studio to a meeting place for the

local model railway society. In the 1970s, the National Union of Mineworkers foresaw difficulties in maintaining the building and a deal was struck with the local council, which now staffs and runs it. The manager, Enid Bowen, said: We were lucky the institute was taken over otherwise it would have suffered a similar fate to most of the others."

A spokesman for Cadw, the body charged with protecting Wales's historic buildings, said a survey was under way to identify those of special interest and give them listed status. It has already given protection to three and the case for another six is

IRA payout 'admits murder'

news

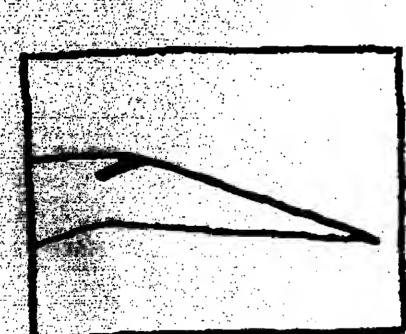
HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

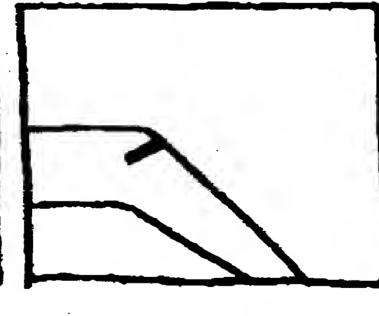
The payment of nearly £40,000 to relatives of the three IRA terrorists killed in Gibraltar is a government admission of murder, the brother of one of the trio said yesterday.

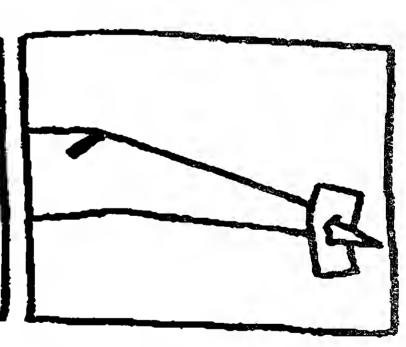
Fuelling the political row which crupted following the Government's decision to comply with a European Court order and pay the families' legal costs. Niall Farrell - brother of Mairead, who died in a hail of SAS bullets - said: "This is a clear indication that the British government now accepts the verdict of the highest human rights court in Europe, that they unlawfully killed or, in plain English, murdered our loved ones."

His words were dismissed by the Government, which emphasised that the payment was for costs only - not compensation - and that short of withdrawing recognition of the Strasbourg court, it had no choice but to pay up.

Last September the European Court of Human Rights cleared the Government of operating a "shoot-to-kill" policy. but ruled that the 1988 gunning down of the three "unlawful". By a 10-9 majority the judges de-cided Farrell, Sean Savage and Daniel McCann could and should have been arrested and gave the Government three months to pay the families' £38,700 costs. The decision infuriated the Government, which said it would review its support for the European Court, Payment of costs indicates it was not prepared to risk international condemnation for withdrawing. While Euro-sceptic MPs were furious at the payout. lawyers acting for the relatives have written to the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe - responsible for implementing the court's verdict. They said the unprecedented verdict and the British response could not be taken lightly. Whose law is it? Page 13







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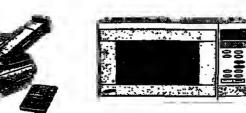
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international

Policing the peace in Bosnia: French hail warring factions' decision to abandon key positions as sign that war is really over

Serbs surrender front-line posts

Amid a relentless snowfall, a handful of French soldiers. accompanied by a dog and an armoured personnel carrier. walked slowly down a broad avenue scanning the shattered buildings around for signs of life. Had they stood here a few weeks ago, "we would all be dead". Major Rodolph D'Al-

mont said cheerfully. The street, lined with coils of razor wire set up three days ago by French troops of I-For, the Nato Implementation Force. was once the front line between Bosnian government and Serb forces. The red brick spire of an Orthodox church, shroud-ed in scaffolding, loomed in the near distance. "It was used for years as an observation post and sniping point by the Serbs," the major said. But the soldiers are gone now, withdrawn under the Dayton peace plan, which required the warring armies to pull back from around 40 designated positions around Sarajevo by midnight last night.

Elliot, a ginger mongrel, apparently of Alsatian descent. wandered the street seeking a fresh scent that would alert his handler to the return of any local troops, but found nothing.

So far, none of the combatants have tried to return: "Two nights ago we saw someone with our night-vision equipment, but it was only an unarmed soldier who had forgotten some [nonmilitary] things," Major D'Almont said. In a square nearby, u few Bosnian civilians lobbed snowballs amid the turned earth of the vegetable gardens that helped to sustain the city through the siege.

Rough-hewn steps leading to a muddy, water-logged trench marked the lines of its defence. The French were impressed by the trench networks on both sides: this, of Bosnian construction, led from a building under the pavement, over porting walls riddled with pipelines and under cables, to bullet-holes and shell scars.

an abandoned school building.
"Be careful – all the rooms fac-Major D'Almoni

Two basketball nets hung in the ball, decorated by a mural and graffin of a later generation. The Islamic Republic of Bosnia", said one wall. "Sex Drugs Rock and Roll." said the other. The Bosnian Army sandbagged the building and cut gun-sights in the walls, knocked holes in walls and ceilings and strung telephone wires to aid communication.

"They were very good," the major said. "In four years of war you learn a lot."

A few hundred metres away. Lieutenam Magon de la Villehuchet, of the 17th Airborne Engineer Regiment brushed the snow from a large green anti-tank mine and carefully unscrewed the three detonators. At least 18 mines were strewn across the narrow street, abandoned by Bosnian Serb soldiers for I-For to clear.

"Anti-personnel and antitank mines that we recognise we can disarm and take away. the lieutenant said, "But when, for example, you find rifle grenades that have not exploded, you must destroy them on the road. You can't pick them up because if you move them they might explode in your

A rifle grenade and a handgrenade lay in the snow under a piece of plastic explosive laid by the French, a wire trailing to the detonator some 30m away. A bright flash, a cloud of black smoke and, a split second lat-er, the crack of an explosion, and a fresh crater, black and smoking, scarred the street.

Buildings on both sides of what is known as the "Airport Settlement", built depressingly close to the flight path to house workers at Sarajevo airport. are utterly destroyed, the facades blown away and the supBut again, the soldiers are gone It is the same story at the mountain road to Pale, the Bosnian Serb capital that affords a glorious and lethal view of Sarajevo.

"We are very confused. We've received conflicting orders over the last three days - most soldiers have left already and most old Serb soldier, said gloomily. His only companions were two dogs and a drunken comrade. "I feel bad about [withdrawing], of course." Sekul Skocojic, another soldier, said. The circumstances that forced us to leave are an international disgrace. We're leaving with a heavy heart." But, he added: "We are honourable people and we will respect the agree-

Major D'Almont is an optimist who believes the retreat from positions such as the school in Dobrinja is a sign the war is over: "They would never withdraw from such a place if they wanted to fight on. They would find it almost impossible to retake it. Anything is possible after four years of war ... but everything leads us to believe peace is starting to settle in."



Settling down: French I-For troops patrol the ceasefire line between Serbs and Muslims in the Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinja

Women sang in praise of Zulu slaughter

Port Shepstone

When 600 Zulu warriors loyal to the Inkatha Freedom Party descended on the village of Shobashohane on Christmas morning to massacre their political rivals, they brought their women to cheer the murderers and rob the victims.

"When these people started sbooting, the women accompanying them were ululating and singing songs of praise," said a 12-year-old girl who survived Monday's slaughter of African National Congress (ANC) supporters on the south coast of the troubled KwaZulu-Natal province.

The girl, evacuated by police to Port Shepstone said she was too frightened to give her name.



President Mandela: Party supporters massacred

She had seen a friend shot, and had lost an uncle who had been chopped to pieces by extremists wielding long knives.

By the time the shooting,

stabbing and burning was over, at least 19 people were dead, 22 wounded, and scores more made homeless. The attackers razed 87 huts and houses and ransacked dozens more. As many as 100 people are unaccounted for.

KwaZulu-Natal has been the site of a running war between the ANC of President Netson movement of Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, which has kitled 13,000 in a decade of titfor-tat slaughter.

But the stories from survivors and police investigators of the attack on Shobashobane - tales of women goading men to kill while they looted homes. of children shot and stabbed without mercy- made the KwaZulu-Natal south coast

sound more like Rwanda where, during last year's or-ganised killing of ethnic Tutsis, Hutu women routinely encouraged their men with chants.

According to a spokesman for the KwaZulu-Natal police, Superintendent Bala Naidoo, the participation of women in political violence was uncommon, but everything about Monday's attack was extraordinary. "This is the first time we've seen an attack like this on such a large scale in broad day-light," he said. Between 600 and 1.000 men armed with guns, spears and knives hit the village in a well-orchestrated attack.

One of the first victims was the local ANC ebairman. Kipha Nyawusa. He died after his stomach was slit open with "bush knives"

A teenage boy, Mzwandile Zulu, told a group of journalists how he fled the impis, or columns of warriors, after he was shot in the arm and the but-

"I managed to get to my feet while the others were running," he said. "The impi was getting close to me. My arm was burn-

ing and so was my bottom." Shobashobane was an ANC enclave in a vast pro-Inkatha area. ANC supporters fled last year because of violence and threats hut returned four months ago. Since then, according to ANC officials and police, Inkatha supporters have placed the village under virtual siege, cutting it off from Izingolweni, about 20 miles inland from Port Shepstone.

Many survivors said the police were warned that an attack was imminent, but they did little except to disarm ANC

"It took a long, long time un-til the police arrived. We sat there watching our houses burn, and very, very much later we saw a police van approaching and it actually didn't do anything," the 12-year-old girl said.

Jacob Zuma, the ANC provincial leader, said yesterday that the police failed to act quickly because they were biased in favour of Inkatha.

The military precision of the attack has raised suspicions that a so-called "third-force" alliance of Inkatha extremists and right-wing security officials may be behind the recent wave of killings in the province.

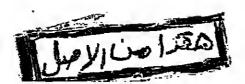


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NY declares war on Times Square sleaze

DAVID USBORNE

Air unlikely coalition of sexshop owners and civil libertarinns is about to take on New Kork City in a bid to block plans to sell out the peep-show soul of Times Square to Madame

Tussaud's and Mickey Mouse.

The cleansing of Times
Square of its historical association with commercial sex is behind draconian new zoning laws just passed by the city that would have such a severe impact on "adult" businesses that, of the 107 point shops and theatres operating in Manhattan, only an estimated 19 would survive.

At the same time, New York's conscivative mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, has successfully hared developers to brave the X-rated nexus of West 42nd street and 8th Avenue and transform it into a hub of family-friendly entertainment, including the owners of Madame Tussand's and, above all, Disney.

The plan's opponents assert, however, that it is tantamount to censorship in violation of the free expression rights of the American Constitution and would wipe out part of the essence of New York's tapestry personality. They intend to file two lawsuits against the city next

"These people, they're de-mented," complains Bill Dobbs, a lawyer and a prominent gay activist. "New York is really a series of districts and I would say that if you can have a flower dis-

trict, a diamond district and district of thieves on Wall Street why not a district for adult uses? If you have read anything about American sailors you know that when their ships come in to New York they visit Times Square and they don't just want to look at the zipper

signs, hopefully they unzip their zippers too.

Under the zoning laws, porn-businesses will not be allowed to operate within 500 feet of schools, day-care centres, hous-es of worship of even of each other. Unless they change what

Joe Rose, the chairman of New York's planning commission, dismisses the defenders of the porn industry. There are people who think it contributes to the city's character, that it's an asset. We don't believe that to be case," he said, pointing out that the sanitising of Times Square was a prerequisite for

. At the heart of the impend-ing legal hattle, aside from the

issue of constitutionality, will be



Under attack; Porn shops will not be allowed to operate within 500 feet of schools Photograph: Gamma

they sell, most will be forced either to relocate in industrial the city's contention that the areas in Manhattan or the out-

presence of sex establishments 'er boroughs or close down.
"Nothing I sell is obscene," leads to increased levels of crime and depressed property contends one sex-shop owner prices. However, studies by who asked to remain anony both the city and the Times mous. "But of course if I change Square Business Improvement my stock and sell violent mur- District have proved inconclu-

der and hnrrnr movies I'll sive. Crime in the neighbour-be perfectly OK. That's hood has fallen 42.7 per cent in two years and property values have soared 65 per cent in a

> We expect that we will prevail once we get into court," pre-dicted Herald Price Fahringer, a high-price New York lawyer who will represent the Coalition for free Expression which brings together all the sex-shop owners. "I think it's embarrassing for this city to have this kind of blatant censorship of what people can read and hear. But we are in a very conservative era in this country and this sort of thing, unfortunately, is

Also filing suit next month will be the New York Civil Lib-erties Union. "A chill is settling over New York City which has a long history as a symbol of a rohust commitment to free expression but where now we see creeping censorship," said its director, Norman Siegel. "We recognise that there are a lot of people who find this offensive expression but the courts recognise that this is none the less expression that has a right to be protected".

The porn emporia of Times Square, as well as the concentration of gay sex merchants in Manhattan's West Village arguably also offer a legitimate, even important, service. "A lot of my customers come for sex education and sex therapy," the porn-owner contended. "And while their wives go shop-ping at Lord & Taylor up the



Menhattan transfer; New laws aim to clean up Times Square, an area long associated with sex

road, husbands can come here and window-shop or masturbate rather than going out and gerting into high-risk sex". The battle to save the smut-

ty and slightly dangerous heart

partly lost, however. The street chained up now and only as you sign at 42nd St now reads "New 42nd St" and a large hanner hangs on the old Amsterdam Theatre announcing the arrival of Disney as its new owner. The of Times Square is already blue cinemas are mostly

reach 8th Avenue do you rediscover the vulgar flashing signs of the last survivors of the porno era, like Nimble Video ("Bi, Amateur and She-Male)

and the Golden Nugget.

faces on people walking down 8th Avenue today," sighs Bill Dobbs. "And they want to turn them into Disoey creatures, all shined up and Middle American. But this is New York".

ADVERTISEMENT

APPEAL FOR THE CHILDREN OF BOSNIA

Could you send a better gift this Christmas?

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials - not the first things to spring to mind when you think about buying presents this Christmas. But for mothers in Bosnia who have almost nothing left with which to care for their children, these basic essentials mean the world. And five can be found in each baby box sent with a donation in Britain to a despairing mother in Bosnia, via British

peace in Hogaia is from you we care what happens to peter in the corridors of you," explains Gaynor Jones. power, a young mother shelter. Younteer Co-ordinator at Feed ing in a mactor capital ar count. the Children. They take it west Bossia knows wint the very personally. how to keep her shivering and take up Feed the Children's toddier sole from the case and infection in appelling conditions said bring cold.

She has been living on the

coge of life same Ounter, When she was kneed to fee: her home in Velice Kladina with only live minutes as pack a capter beg - and huddle with 22,000 other people along five kilometers; in road in Khapjerisko vidles

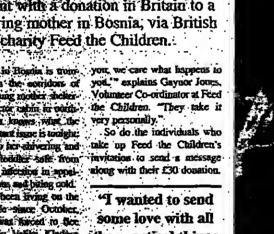
She is one of 14,000 mothers in Bosins and Creatia who have received baby boxes full of the the filthy coordinas in which they are surviving clean nanpies and hoby clean to soothe ng mappy rash, 1980 to wash wine-socked babygros the fire this markey floors of their shokers....



From me to you and your civid

inside each box, packed by Children's and supply centre in person who made it possible. For the exhausted, often traumatised woman who receives it. it is a potent sign that somewhere, somebody is thinking of her, and her efforts to propert her child.

"It's tike a voice breaking grough the isolation and hopelessness surrounding these mothers and children, saying we know how hard it is for



the practical things in a baby box." Bosma on the television, clinging to their children for dear I wanted to do more than send

mother opening the box. "You'se doing an amazing job, and my family think about you every night'. Feed the Children enabled me to do that for which I'm very grateful."

Julie Griffin was drawn to the idea of sending a baby box to Bosnia for the same reason. "I wast wanted in send some love with all the practical things in a baby box. It was haz : personal : involvement



Despite the Dayton peace initiative, mothers and young children in Bosnia trying to rebuild



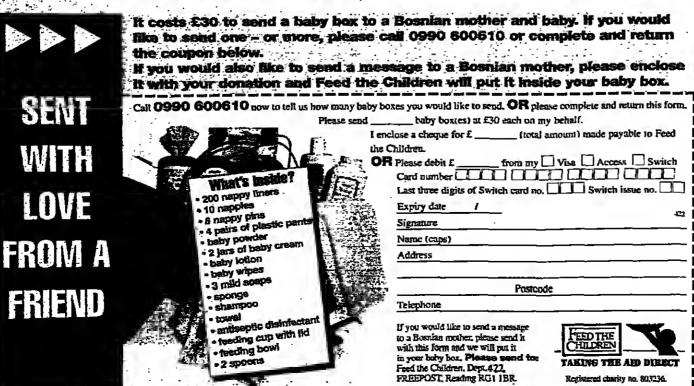
a difference?

In many areas of Bosnia, peace simply means that the shooting has stopped. But the problem is that whole communities have been chased from their homes, and are either too afraid to return or will find only a scorched patch of earth or bombed-out shell where their home used to be.

There are many truly lost people," says Siewart Crocker, Deputy Director at Feed the Children. "We must ensure they are not forgotten amidst the news of the Daylon

initiative. Their needs are tremendous, especially those of the mothers and young children. They are trying to move forward, trying to rebuild their lives.

"People in Britain can take one major worry from these mothers by giving them what tle ones - a Feed the Children



INBRIEF

Police cultists murdered 14 soul mates

Grennble - Antopsies have found that 14 of the 16 members of the Order of the Solar Temple Swiss cult found in a remote forest clearing in eastern France were killed by rifle shots, said Jean-François Lorans, a French prosecutor. The 14 probably were killed by two cult members who were police officers, who appeared to have then killed themselves after dousing the bodies in paint thinner and setting them alight.

Robbers kill guard in rocket attack

Lille — Hooded gangsters attacked a Brink's armoured car with a rocket launcher and assault ritles, killing one of the escorts and escaping with an unknown amount of money. The 10-man gang used a roadblock to stop the armoured car near Lille airport in northern France, Police said the armoured car had been picking up money from supermarkets in the regioo.

Malaysian premier accuses West of unrest

Kuala Lompur - In one of his frequent swipes at the West, the Malaysian Prime Minister. Mahathir Mohamed. accused Western nations of trying to stall Asian development by stirring up labour unrest. "They try to incite workers not to work unless less competitive and the workers lose their jobs.

Store chiefs jailed after 500 die

Seoul — The owner of Seoul's Sampoong department store which collapsed in June, killing more than 500 people, was sentenced to ten and a half years in jail. Lee Joon, 73, was found guilty of criminal negligence. His son, the store's president, was sentenced

Yeltsin stands by his foreign minister

Moscow - President Boris Yeltsin asked his Foreign Minister. Andrei Kozyrev, to remain in his job, brushing away demands for his dismissal by Communists and hardliners who won parliamentary elections 10 days ago. Elected to parliament on 17 December, Mr Kozyrev has to choose between resigning from the cahinet or giving up his legislative seat.

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Israel's border war: Civilians pay the price when the unwritten rules of the conflict are broken and the bombs fall on villages

Hizbollah raises stakes in Lebanon fighting

ROBERT FISK

"My congratulations to our martyrs, Hassan Nasrallah told a memorial service for one of his Hizbollah militiamen this month. But the humanitarian worker tramping the stony footbills near Tallousa found a Hizbollah gunman far beyond congratulation. "He'd been killed by an Israeli shell and we had been told where to find him - both sides agreed we could

retrieve the corpse." he said.
"He'd been dead two weeks and when we turned him over there were worms all over his face, all over his Kalashnikov. He was decaying but he was still clutching the rifle. I just put him and the rifle in a big plastic sheet together. I guess they buried him with his gun. That's the war in southern Lebanon."

Brutal, nasty and long is not a bad description of the conflict. Israel's occupying army is still assaulted daily by Hizhollah guerrillas and only now, after 5,000 Israeli shells have been fired into the lower Bekaa vallev and a flurry of Hizbollah Katyushas landed in Galilee, has the usual threat of "massive military retaliation" died down. The dangers inherent in the latest battles have not gone away, for both sides broke the rules that they agreed last year to reduce

the war in southern Lebanon. it began with a long and unexplained Israeli bombardment of the southern Bekaa. In just over a month, the Israelis fired 5,(NO 175mm shells into the val-

the region believed was little more than target pracoce. "The Israelis are phasing out their 175mm artillery." one official said. "So this was an opportunity to use up old ammunition. But there are ordinary people in the lower Bekaa and if you're going to use the land they live on as target practice, you're going to get hit hack." Under the unwritten rules be-

tween Israelis and Hizbollah, the conflict must be confined to military targets inside southern Lebanon, If the Israelis fire into villages and kill civilians, the Hizbollah will fire Katyushas into Israel. The Israeli bombardment fell outside the terms of the agreement since it did not specifically target villages. But the Hizbollah became worried. not least when Israeli shells fell close to the village of Bradchit.

The Israelis were trying to push at us by avoiding the agreement," a bearded Hizbollah factotum said in Beirut. "They tried to lay down a curtain of fire in the Bekaa to prevent our fighters getting through to attack their army, but they failed. When their shells fell near Bradchit, we believed it was time to strike back." On 27 November, more than

two dozen Katyusha rockets were fired into Galilee. A day later. Said Harb, the local Hizbollah leader in the village of Jibehit, just north of the occupation zone, stepped into his hooby-trapped car and was flown to pieces. The Hizbollah blamed the Israelis and fired Katyushas across the border.

against the Israelis. This was just

ing one, and apparently involves the Israeli northern army commander. Amíram Levine. For on 17 September, General Levine and Moshe Shahal, the Israeli Interior Minister, along with the Israeli army's liaison

almost got him in September. our bomb was only 30ft away from him". Witnesses say the officer in southern Lebanon, Giora Inbar, were almost killed by the Hizbollah who set off a roadside bomh beside their convoy on the road between

Kleiya and Marjayoun. Harb is these shells? Only a week earsaid to have planned the attack. lier the Israelis bombed Pales-We are not impressed by tinian 'General Command' Levine," said a Hizbollah man. positions at Nahme, south of We know all about him ~ we Beirut, but the 'GC' had not carried out any recent operations

bomb exploded 90 feet from the According to the Israelis, the US envoy, Dennis Ross, was Israeli army commander. "How were we supposed to forced to read the riot act to the react when the Israelis fired all Syrian ambassador, Walid Mou-

provocation."

Watching his flock: A shepherd leading sheep past an upturned UN vehicle in the village of Hanniyah, in southern Lebanon allem: order the Hizbollah to stop or the Israelis will strike into

Lebanon "in a devastating way". Local security sources remain unimpressed. "The Israelis don't have the stomach for another major operation in Lebanon," one of them said. Oddly, however, the Hizbollah appear to have questioned their own response to Israeli attacks.

memorial ceremony to honour Hizbollah "martyr" Neameh Hassaykayeh, Hassan Nasrallah said: "Perhaps our retaliation, with 30 rockets or so, was a bit over the limit compared to other times. But the important thing was to wake up the world. and this we succeeded in doing. We are told that the US was unwn response to Israeli attacks. happy with our retaliation ... a In his speech at the Beirut few Jewish settlers were hurt.

roofs and they had to spend all that time in their shelters. Breaks my heart! A lew Katyushas fall in Israel and the whole world suffers a nervous breakdows. But what about our people in Bradchit, Hadatha, Shaqra and scores of others ... don't they count?"

Mr Nasrallah had another message for his guerrillas. "Let me tell you about the trap Israel is setting up. They want our re-sistance to stop for six months and the Lebanese army to disarm the resistance as a prefude to with-drawal. Then they make this nonsense sound like a new peace proposal. And many, including some in this place [Lebanon], ac-

tually believe them." In fact, Israel only offered to "talk" about withdrawal if there was a six-month ceasefire, hardly an offer that would commend itself to President Hafez al-Assaid of Syria whose control of Lebanon is near-total. The Hizbollah's war is painful enough for the Israeli army, and the Syrians are unlikely to worry about Israeli casualties unles Israel stages a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The Israeli Prime Minister. Shimon Peres, has proclaimed a "peace revolution". But if the Israelis are still looking for partial withdrawai on Golan, Mr Assad is not going to be imand that ionely humanitarian worker is going to be wrapping many more corpses in plastic sheets, with or without the

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Israel to free prisoners as Syria talks resume

ERIC SILVER

Israel yesterday completed its withdrawal from the six West Bank cities due to be handed over to Yasser Arafat's National Authority before next month's Palestinian elections. The last and most contentious major centre, Hebron, will follow in March.

A first detachment of Palestinian police took control of Ramallah, the home town of Mr Arafat's wife, Suha. Some 18 miles north of Jerusalem, Ramallah is expected to join Gaza City as the Palestinians' interim capital, though the long-term goal is still to establish a permanent capital in Jerusalem.

Young Palestinians sped the last Israeli police jeep out of Ramallah with a barrage of stones, firing into the air as the Star of David was lowered from the police station.

The Israeli army announced yesterday that it had completed a list of 1,000 Palestinian security prisoners (of the 5,000 it is still holding) who will be released next week. The Prime

agreed also to a request from Mr Arafat to expand the legislative council to be elected on, audience of Israel's Arab citi-20 January from 82 to 89 members. However, much Israel may deny it, the council looks more and more like the partiament of a state in the making. An ominous sign of the kind

of state it might be was given on Monday, when Palestinian police arrested the duty editor of peace", including diplomatic al-Quds, the largest-circulation relations and open borders. Palestinian daily paper. Maher al-Alami was taken from his Jerusalem home to the West Bank police headquarters in Jericho. His offence was to relegate to an inside page a story lauding Mr Arafat's relations with the Christian world.

Peace talks between Israel and Syria resumed outside Washington yesterday. The Israelis are looking less for an immediate breakthrough than for an indication of the kind ofpeace President Hafez al-Assad has in mind.

Mr Peres, who was always more optimistic and less patient—which peace and what are its than his assassinated prede—characteristics. cessor, Yitzhak Rabin, has becar

Minister, Shimon Peres, has encouraged by a more conciliatory tone from Damascus. "It is not peace yet," he told an zens on Monday, "but the tone

... We have never had better music than we have now." Israel has signalled its readi-ness to evacuate most of the Golan Heights it occupied in 1967, but only in return for "full. The army is arguing against tak-ing the risk of coming down from the strategic plateau for anything less.

The Chief of Staff, Lieu tenant General Ampon Shahak, explained to the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence There is a big difference be-tween launching the fight from the Hulch Valley [in northern Israell or from Kuneitra (on the Going). When we are talking about peace, we need to know

MORTGAGES

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following interest rates for mortgages provided by Centrebank, a Division of Bank of Scotland, will apply with effect from 21 December 1995 for loans not yet drawn and from 1 February 1996 for existing borrowers.

Centrebank Mortgage Rate 7.49% per annum Stabilised Charging rate

7.79% per annum

Adaptable Mortgage Plan Charging Rate Home Loan Rate

7.65% per annum 7.49% per annum

Centrebank Mortgage Rate Phis (Variable)

7.99% per annum



Shoppers stampede to cash in on bargains

Sales fever gripped all of Britain not already in the grip of bad weather yesterday as the much vaunted consumer confidence comeback finally made a

showing.
Stores across the country reported queues of customers, as the cold did little to deterbargain-hunters who seemed set on good value for money, A spokeswoman for Selfridge's of London said: "This year we are seeing a more dis-cerning customer. They are looking for better quality mer-

chandise rather than cheap sale

About 806 enstoners queued six-deep for the start of the Selfridge's sale where bar-gains included a £1,599 Chinese wool hand-knotted rug with 75 per cent off at £399. It sold within minutes of doors opening. More than 850 pairs of designer shoes were snapped up in the first two hours while the Men's Designer Room sold 1,000 suits, 2,000 shirts, 1,000 pieces of underwear and 200 overcoats in the same period.

Lesley Exley, marketing director, said: "It's going hrilliantly. We've got a lot of people going down to china and glassware as normal but it is menswear which is completely and utterly chocka, with the designer brands attracting attention. British men seem to be becoming more interested m

Pat Phillips, 61, from Bushey, Hertfordshire, was trying to persuade her busband that three buttons instead of his normai two on a jacket would not be too radical a move, "If's frantic bere," she said. "This is definitely busier than normal centre. A lot of the shops didn't

DI'ISON@

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Laboratory supervisor Keith Woolley, 35, was taking all the fashion experts advice and can convert the number of peo-stocking up on essentials like ple coming to the centre into good shirts. He found four sales which from what I've before being sidetracked to the seen they are doing - then it Calvin Klein and Armani ties. should be a good start to the reduced from £54.95 to £34.95. new year."

Judith Strange, 29, a sales trainer from Dorking, Surrey, thought the reductions were not quite as good as in previous years "but we're still buying

Elsewhere m Oxford Street, the normal decorum of Marks and Spencer and Debenhams was shattered by the shoppers'

Gurm Lal; manager of Dixons, said all departments were busy but the real bargains lay in discounts such as £150 off large-screen televisions. "Most of the money at this time of year goes on large audio and hi-fi items," he said.

At the MetroCentre, Tyneside, Europe's biggest shop-ping complex, queues began more than two hours before onening time and management opened up early to let shoppers in from the cold.

In the Barker and Stonehouse store in Newcastle upon Tyne, brothers John and David Fowler bought a £2,245 sofa for £99 after waiting since Christmas Day in temperatures as low

The Meadowhall shopping centre: in Sheffield was "absolutely buzzing", a spokes-man said. "At Next, they're letting a few people out before they let a few people in. If you look at the malls, the shopping bag factor is very high. The bargain hunters are here in their

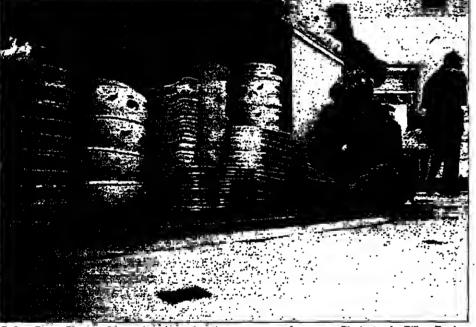
A spokesman for the Merry Hill shopping centre in Dudley, West Midlands, said: "This looks like the best ever start to the sales. I don't think I have ever seen so many people in the and people are buying. You open until 10am today but peo-couldn't get in the car park." ple were outside knocking on the doors at 8am."

He added: "If the retailers



Business as usual: Selfridge's china department is always husy, but this year designer clothes saw the heaviest flow of shoppers

Photograph: Dillon Bryden



Sales floor: The excitement seems lost on younger shoppers Photograph: Dillon Bryden

New year financial blues set to hit big spenders

mas and new year festivities,

according to a new survey.

And more than half of consumers plan to compound the said that many of these people cost of their pre-Christmas overstretched existing credit shopping sprees by going to the January sales, the research for consumer-credit supplier Beneficial Bank discovered.

The vast majority of people say they do not get into financial trouble after Christmas. The numbers admitting to pay more than they need to. problems are higher among 25to 34-year-olds, people who

At least a quarter of the popu- £25.000 - although this may be Younger spenders, in the 25debt after funding their Christ- credit card bills rather than being unable to meet debts.

But Bernie Woollard, the bank's marketing controller, facilities such as overdrafts without meaning to - causing unnecessary additional costs.

"Many will go into debt 'accidentally," he said. "Consumers are not planning their finances sufficiently ahead and may well "Without forward planning. consumers may well find them-

worrying, he said. A third predicted they would be pushing the boat out with their credit card over Christmas and 69 per cent expected to go to the sales. but 11 per cent thought this

would put them further in debt. As a result a quarter of those surveyed thought they would slart the new year

To help tackle the new-year financial blues, Beneficial Bank is launching a service called Money Planner - a loan planning service to enable cuswork and live in the south, and selves paying off the festivities tomers to consolidate credit those earning more than throughout 1996 and beyond." into one monthly repayment.



Out in force: the bargain hunters Photograph: Glynn Gnffiths

START TODAY DEPARTMENT STORES

Fenwick Sale at the large Newcastle branch begins.

Formum & Mason 181 Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-734 8040).50 per cent off : Betty Jackson, selected lines. Selected men sains £245, save £250. Chateur Lynch Barger, 5eme Cru Paulliac £150, save

John Lewis Partnership 278-306 Oxford Street, Lon don W1 (0171-629 7711), Peter Jones, Sloane Square, and at John Lewis, Brent Cross, Bainbridge. Newcastle, Cheadle, High Wycombe, Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Will last 10 days. Sale starts tomorrow at all

other branches. CLOTHES - ...

Space NK Ilam start. 41 Thomas Neal's Earlham Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7030). Between 30 and 40 per cent off designer labels and accessories, including Clements Ribeiro, Future Ozbek, Alberto Biani, Soap Studio, Liza Bruce and Fenn Wright &

....... HOMES & INTERIORS

Crucial Trading 77 Westbourne Park Road. London W2 (0171-221 9000). and 4 St Barnabas Street, Pim-lico Green. London, SW1 (0171-221 9000). Until 28 February, 50 per cent reduction on certain floor covermes.

Miscellanea

marble bathroom suites reduced from £2,500 to £800.

MUSCELLANEOUS

The Pukka Palace 174 Tower Bridge Road, Loadon SE1 (0171-234 0000). Until 28 January. 20 per cent off Anglo-Indian furniture and accessories, such as leather safari suitcases and solar topis.

NOW RUNNING DEPARTMENT STORES

Debenhams. Branches throughout England and Wales. 334-348 Oxford Street London W1 (01/71-580 3000). General information (01/71-408 3333).

Will last for about two weeks.

Fenwick 63 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 9161) and stores in Brent Cross, Windsor, Leicester, York, Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells. At Bond Street, Mondi collections will be reduced by 30-50 per cent, Fenn Wright & Manson, Betty Barclay collections by up to 50 per cent, and Weekend Collections by 30 per cent. Reduc-tions at Brent Cross include up to 50 per cent off French Connection, Jacques Vert and Bianca, and 50 per cent off leather handbags and selected jewellery by Monet, Ciro and Napier: (Newcastle sale starts

Harvey Nichols 109-125 Knightsbridge, Lon-don SW1 (0171-235 5000). Will last two to three weeks. Crossways, Church, Farn-Account enstomers get an ham, Surrey (01428 714014). additional 10 per cent off the Until 13 January. Sells deco- sale price for the first four £175, blazers £195, save £100. selected items.

rative bathroom and kitchen days. Specific bargains are a objects. Some massive dis- secret, but expect reductions to counts, including complete be up to 50 per cent off selected items.

> House of Fraser (England and Wales). For store sites, ring 0171-963 2236. Bargains in the cookshop include 40 per cent off Le Creuset cast-iron cookware in American green and burgundy and 50 per cent off Judge satin stainless steel cookware.

Liberty Regent Street, London W1... (0171-734 1234) and branches nationwide. Join the hordes sniffing out fabric bargains such as printed Armani silk down from £89.95 to £25, Liberty printed silk from £14.95 to £10 and Liberty Veruna wool from £22 to £15. Jean Paul Gaultier jewellery is half price. Pewter-framed mirrors are down from £59 to £29. Por-ingese double bed spreads £49. save £50 and Liberty wax coats £99, save £100.

Marks & Spencer Customer inquiries (0171-935 4422). End-of-season clearance nationwide.

Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 1234). Will last about a month. Armchair browsers can check out sale bargains in Selfridges Selection mail order catalogue, available now (0800 101101).

CLOTHES

Aguascutum 100 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 6090.) Reductions of between 50 and 75 per cent on selected items. Womenswear: jackets £162, save £163, coats £275, save £175. Menswear: raincoats £150, save

was a summer from the control of the

Austin Reed Regent Street, London WI (0171-734 6789) and nationwide. Will last two to three weeks. Account customers can take advantage of an extra 5 per cent discount on the first

SALES GUIDE: WHERE TO FIND WHAT AND WHEN

three days. Christian Lacroix 8a Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 2400) and 29 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-409 1994). Discounts of 30 per cent.

> Comme des Garçons 59 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-493 1258). Reductions of up to 40 per cent off all remaining men's and women's collections including Robes de Chambre, Comme des Garcons Tricot and Junya Watanabe.

> > French Connection 99 Long Acre, London WC2 and branches around the country. General inquiries (0171-580 2507). Between 30 and 50 per cent off selected stock.

Unit 17, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-836 9168) and branches nationwide. General customer information 0171-586 5550.
Buy your party gear at prices discounted by up to 50 per cent. Strappy stilettoes are reduced from £59.99 to £29.99, ballerina shoes from £28.99 to £19.99, satin cross-over dress from £64.99 to £32.99.

Joseph 77 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-823 9500). Reductions from 30 per cent off.

Laura Ashley Branches nationwide. Inquiries 01686 622116. nationwide. Between 20 and 50 per cent off

Inquiries 0181 601 4000. Knee-length mohair coats now £99, save £71. Evening velvet frock coat £110, save £40. Sutton Jacquard cardigans £29.27. save £30.

193 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-437 4300), 33 King Street, Manchester (0161-835 2022), Unit F1, Bentall Centre. Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey (0181-546 2224). A sale catalogue can be obtained on 0345 331177. Most sports jack-ets are now £50, with a maxi-

the sale are £30, save £15. The Scotch House 2 Brompton Road, Knights-bridge, London SW1, 84-86 Regent Street, London W1. and 64 Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Inquiries on 0171-581 2151. Reductions of between 30 and 40 per cent.

mum saving of £85. All shirts in

Basemont, 4 Brewer Street. London W1 (0171 437 1259). Until the end of January. 30-50 per cent off Hysteric Glamour (the Japanese answer to "really cool" T-shirts), Judy Blame and Gimme 5.

Church's Branches nationwide, Central inquiry number is 01323 649408. Some styles reduced by more than 50 per cent.

Church Bellini men's shoes down from £199 to £99, ladies lily-style bigh-beeled boots reduced from £120 to £60. Jones Bootmakers

Branches throughout the country. Inquiry number is 01323 649408.

Pied à terre

32 Neal Street, London WC2 (0171 240 8148) and branches nationwide, Reductions include court shoes reduced from £79 to £40.

Only at 184-188 Oxford Street, London W1. Sale starts at other branches this weekend. Mail order and inquiries on 0171-631 0224. Up to 33 per cent off this season's boots, bags and stiletto-beeled shoes.

pumps £65 to £30 and long

boots from £95 to £50.

Red or Dead 1 & 23 Thomas Neal's, Earl-

ham Street, London WC2 (0171 240 5576) and branches nationwide. Inquiries 0171-937 3137. Wdl last about a month. Selected stock reduced by 50 per cent. Sixties-style knee-length nylon boots in gold, black or rust reduced from £120 to £60,

Small and Tall Shoe Shop Inquiries (0171 723 5321). Until 6 January. Sale of women's shoes in large or

HOMES & INTERIORS

The General Trading Co. 10 Argyle Street, Bath (01225-461507) and 2-4 Dyer Street. Cirencester (01285-652314). Until the end of January. Save up to 30 per cent on this clear-out. Quilted cotton bedspreads down from £180 to £135 and Kilim stools from £640 to £500.

196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666). 234 King's Road and Tunsgatc, Guildford. Look for greatly reduced one-off pieces of furniture that are either shopsoiled, damaged or buyers' samples, along with little lux-

uries like a Heal's hand-made fridge freezer £299,99, save Avon bed (5ft) reduced from £170. £2,495 to £1,870.

2 Drury Way, North Circu-Gateshead, Leeds and Warrington. Up to 50 per cent sav- £100. ings throughout the store including black leather threeseat sofa from £335 to £249. Kvilla two-seater sofa now £199, save £96 and Spisa table £129, save £60.

Purves & Purves 80-81 and 83 Tottenham Court Road, London WI (0171-580 8223). Up to 40 per cent off ex-display and discontinued lines. Special orders will be reduced by 10 per cent on items over £500.

Rhode Design 65 Cross Street, London N1 (0171-354 9933). 10 per cent off all ranges of mdf kitchen furniture.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Body Shop First nationwide sale. Until 13 January. Customer services (01903-731500)

120-122 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 (0171-229 1947). Dial-a-bargain sale of domestic appliances runs from 27 December until 31 January. The idea is that you name the item - brand, model number and ring up for a sale price

Currys Inquiries 0181 419 3900. Toshiba fastext 21 inch televi-sion £259.99, save £70, Candy

1000 Spin Autowasher £249,99.

save £100. Frigidaire two-door reduced.

Inquiries 0181 419 3900.

Sony Cameorder now £699. lar Road, London NW10 save £300, Matsui CDP200 (0181-208 5600) and branches remote control CD player in Croydon, Birmingham, £79,44, half price and Grundig 21-inch Nicam TV £299, save

> 301 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-409 2619) and at stores nationwide. Discounted goods include the Kastle bike Degree 3.5 - was £200.09, now £240. Nike ladies' air total hody trainers are down from £59,99 to £44,99. Nikes Airmacs £60, save £40. Hippo Beast golf set (irons) £200, save

The Pier At stores around the country, Until 21 January, Customer inquiries (0171-351 7100.) Christmas merchandise

is reduced to clear. Other merchandise at half price or less.

The Scotch House Brompton Road. Knightsbridge, London SW1, 84-86 Regeni Street, London W1, and 64 Buchanan Street. Glasgow, Inquiries on 0171-581 2151. The sale will last at least a fortnight, Reductions of between 30 per cent and 40 per cent on good quality cashmere and wool jumpers. (for example, a gold-buttoned cashmere cardigan reduced from £235 to £169).

Snow + Rock 188 Kensington High Street. London WS (0171-937 0872) and branches nationwide. Until the end of January, Savings of 10 per cent on all accessories and ski boots with selected items substantially

education

Some will enter the new year with enthusiasm, others with foreboding. Three teachers talk about work and morale

Who'd be a state school teacher?

Retired, hurt, from a career that had changed beyond recognition

into teaching in 1980. wanted. "I loved the job, and the kids," he says. Yet for much of this year, after retiring at 45, he has been at home recover-

ing from stress.
Paul was originally a popmusician, playing with among other bands - the Foundations. But after marriage and a daughter, he went back to college. "I always wanted to teach," he says. "I saw it as a noble, satisfying joh which helped the world." Once qualified, he got a job at Charlemont Primary School in Sandwell, "a lovely school in a nice area with a good reputation. It

He went in to work at Sam, and after the children left he would willingly stay on until 6pm, "It was as quiet as a church then, and I would sit, reflecting on that day and preparing for the next, thinking of new ways to make it fun. Paul was happy, his headteacher was happy and the wit and camaraderie of the staff-room was a daily delight.

That halcvon time lasted three years - and then the first national curriculum document landed on his desk. By now Paul was in charge of maths at Charlemont and, in a dozen staff meetings, he conscientiously planned the required changes, meanwhile taking a six-week course for maths co-ordinators.

Then he was put in charge of science, just as the national curriculum science document

meetings started again and he began a two-year diploma in primary science. But as Paul qualified, the Government changed the curriculum again: "My diploma was worthless. I was absolutely devastated."

New national curriculum documents - around a dozen in all - kept arriving. There were endless meetings: "I felt that even if I worked till midnight every night the work wouldn't get done.

He had lost those precious hours at the end of the day: "Invariably there would be a meeting, then it was: quick! Back to the classroom. It's dark, I'm starving. I can do half an hour's preparation, take the documents home, eat to survive and then plough on. I was running on an adrenalin

But it wasn't the workload that bothered Paul, "I expected to give my all." It was the sense of fullity that was getting him down. "I thought: everything will change and we'll have to start the whole process

Nightmarishly, the dreaded paperwork seemed to have taken control. And he hated the sense of being driven, of having to fit things in. Worse, he felt as if the Government was taking revenge on teachers for past strike action.

One night, after hours spent ticking thousands of little boxes (the latest attainment targets), he could no longer move his hand, "I thought if I threw it all in the bin, or made it up, no one would know - because no one



Paul Lockey, who retired at 45 because of stress: "We spent years doing what we thought was important - yet it was all as nothing to the people in power, who just changed it."

deserted now, there was no more laughter. "We were piled high with work and morale was very low." Paul had begun to feel physically weak, aching all over as if with flu. It was only pitations and hreathlessness hit later that a psychiatrist bim "like a bomhshell". "I over as if with flu. It was only

In the staff-room, often explained these were symptoms of stress.

Then one evening in the classroom, as he forced himself to tackle yet more paperwork, Paul was suddenly unable to stand. Palthought, oh God, I'm dying of increasingly difficult to keep up, a beart attack." In fact it was Paul was sent on six months' the first of many panic attacks which - over a period of a year -were to make it impossible for

sick leave for his "anxiety state". A further six months on half pay followed, and then As the vicious circle of illness year.

As the vicious circle of illness year.

The teaching I loved had

early retirement in July of last

become the job I bated," says Paul. "It was a hammer blow to

We wasted years doing what we thought was important - yet me." He has started feeling it was all as nothing to the hetter recently and is now people in power, who just teaching for half a day a week. changed it. I know now that I Bur he is still "hopping mad" am only one of many thousands that feaching became a politic of teachers who have become ill ical football.

Simple things in the private sector made a Marion Plowright is a teacher who wholebig difference. Like having textbooks

ou'll never get day and blood pressure was back into the state already simmering ominously. a colleague. It was a bit like telling the birdman he would never return to Alcatraz-

A parent of the public school to which I had just been appointed supplied yetmore unsolicited advice. "When you get there, your feet won't touch the ground," he laughed, obviously unaware that levitation among comprehensive school teachers is something of an art form.

Armed with these warn-

ings and 16 years' experience in state schools, I embarked on a new career in the private sector last September.

Primarily, my application was inspired by the need for a new challenge. At interview, though, I could not entirely conceal the wish to escape funding cuts, increased class sizes, government initiatives and curricular changes, on top of which loomed the imminent threat of an Ofsted inspection. I was without doubt selling out, but at what price?

The first few weeks were a honeymoon. Although the facilities at my new school are overwhelming, it was the sim-ple things that made the biggest impression. Like having text-books, for example. A room of my own was a novelty, too. Perhaps the most pleasant relief was to begin teaching at 9am without having to go through the ritual staff briefing followed by morning registration.

Registration in my comprehensive was more than just roll-calling. It involved a bat-tle for silence while reading the bulletin; receiving or insisting upon absence notes (usually the latter); following up disci-plinary issues; collecting photograph money, trip money, minibus appeal money, and promoting the car boot sale in aid of the science-block roof.

Supervising the swift removal of unacceptable rings, ear-rings and nose-rings was followed by inquiries as to the dietary habits of those who insisted they were eating sher-bet dabs for want of breakfast; by which time the class would be clareouring for the doors in order to sit next to their friend during the obligatory John Patten-inspired "act of worship. Half an hour into the

Whatever else may have been said by supposedly informed opinion, everyone knows - except, it appears, Ofsted inspectors and Etoneducated members of the Cabinet - that class size is the single most important advantage to the public school. Not simply because one can more readily deal with the individual needs of each pupil, but smaller classes mean more manageable rooms, a more intimate approach, less opportunity for

distraction and a more positive

teacher-pupil relationship. It

also means less marking and therefore less rushed and less meaningless marking: When I casualty remarked to a colleague that I was enjoying the smaller class sizes, he retorted with: "Yes, but wait until end-of-term reports.

For weeks I contemplated what kind of encyclopaedic profiling was about to be required, and was relieved to discover the report forms were exactly the same as those I had previously used. There was, however, one essential difference: I now teach 80 pupils per week. Previously I had reports to write for more than 206.

The old snowstorm of paper was unremitting. A day or two off would mean returning to a pigeonhole tightly packed with paper. I now boast a pigeon-hole empty for sometimes four consecutive days.

Paperwork is about accountability, not standards. The public school is accountable to its customers, which in many ways mitigates the need for continual self-justification. Standards are assumed to be high unless proved otherwise. Comprehensive schools, however, from government and to be underachieving unless they can prove to the contrary.

The joh is demanding. My new school is coeducational and non-selective. A large number of dyslexic pupils attend as well as those for whom English is a second language. In fact, given classes of 30, a budget reduction of several millions and a great deal of government intervention, it could almost be a comprehensive.

MARTIN DIMERY

I still love my job. Must there be something wrong with me?

heartedly loves teaching, has never regretted doing it or thought of leaving the profession. It is a sign of the times that this makes her somehow peculiar.

"People say, you're the only person I know who still enjoys teaching. But how many teachers have they spoken to? The implication is that if you enjoy teaching there must be some-

thing wrong with you."

Marion has been teaching for 22 years, apart from a six-year maternity hreak. She is now bead of drama and of personal and social education at Central Lancaster High School, a town comprehensive competing locally with two opted-out

grammar schools.
"There is a complete misconception that teaching here must be very difficult," she says. "But there is tremendous diversity, which makes it exciting. I work with hright, happy kids who love drama."

Some, it is true, have low aspirations and little self-con-fidence. They are the ones I love teaching the most," she says, "because drama huilds their confidence and opens their imaginations. You should see their faces when we do a production. They come off stage after a performance and they hug me; they cry. I think I must be one of the luckiest

Recently she overheard some pupils saying, "Oh, great! It's drama next," and she was delighted because she likes and respects young people. "I love the 11 to 16 age group and the froth of life they create." They have more to cope with divorced parents, uncertain job prospects - than her generation

"I believe in their right to education and that I can make a difference, preparing them for adult life, sparking their imag-inations, encouraging self-con-fidence and empathy. And they devour everything I give them."

Then she is laughing and protesting in case she sounds pompous or smug. But she feels she is a "born teacher", so why not say so? She aims to deliver "high-quality communication and lots of praise". She tries to avoid sareasm and to avoid misusing her power. All this and she is closeted with 20 or more teenagers at a time for some eight hours a day.

"I do get very tired," she admits. "Sometimes I wonder - can I work at this pace for the next 15 years or will it kill me?" Chronic money shortages at school add to the pressure as "free periods" (non-contact time) get swallowed up



covering for absent colleagues. "We work through hunch and often after school. There is no time to draw breath or deal with admin." As for Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) checks, despite being specially commended in a recent visit, she finds them "every hin as

stressful as expected". More than anything, it is the low status of teaching today that makes her angry. "The climate of education is now extraordinarily difficult. It's such hypocrisy to say that raising standards is important and then

go teacher-bashing."
Teaching does take up "large areas" of her life. "But if you are doing something you feel is worthwhile, why should you feel bad about that?" She could do with more "unwinding time" at the end of the day, however. Sometimes when she gets home to her own children (Joseph, 13, and Laura, 16), her patience has worn thin. If they are demanding, she can snap at them: "And then I hate myself." Yet being

helped her to communicate as a mother, and vice versa. Fortunately, her husband, Tony, a university lecturer, shares her passion for drama

a teacher, she believes, has around the theatre. Last year he directed an amateur production of The Crucible with Marion in the role of Elizabeth Proctor. Performance is in her family. One sister, Rosalind Plowright, is an internationally and their social life revolves

famous opera singer. Another, Louise, played Julie (the han-dresser) in EastEnders. "I have thought -I could do that," admits Marion, "but no more than that. Teaching for

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Unusual Gifts What's On

THE KINGDOM Lars von Trier (no cert)

A fier four and a half rivet-ing hours, Lars von Trier's ngdom ends with the the Angum ends with the three most maddening words in marritive art. By that point, the viewer has grown first accustomed, then addicted to its suphisticated piotting and than accustomed, its subtle mirely of the control of the con histories sition, its subtle mixing of genres, but those three infle words will spoil quite a few proper assentes. There will be grants in selected art chemas.

The Kingdom isn't strictly problem is a few parts and for Danish television. The director, who controls the series made for Danish television. The director, who controls the series refers to the controls the series of t wrote the script, refers to it as a 160 hander project, written its a new format. You like the line try of long preparation (he claims the script was written in six weeks), and gave up his preferred working method of storyboarding every sequence. The result was that the editing stage became a further part of the creative process, rather than the implementation of decisions diready made.

Von Rieer boasts jovially about having "sold out", but The Kingdom's nixture of art and commerce is camy enough to show that he's bluffing There are even two open-ing sequences, one highly aes-the treased, and the other dynamic. The first is a stronging tableau of the Copenhagen bogs where bleachers used to do their work. It's in slow motion, and bathed in ivory light - light that has itself been softly bleached. Then there's a made-for-TV title sequence, all pounding music and jumpy cutting, speeding ambulances and multiple images of the

main characters.

The director claims to have been inspired by a TV series from his childhood (Belphegor), and also by Twin Peaks, which brought out in David Lynch, in Von Trier's judgement, qualities missing from his movies: Some of The Kingdom in fact looks like ER since this is a bospital drama of sorts - or Homicide, whose jarring editing it imitates. If you hated the jerkiness there, ye won't be soothed here either, but there are rewards in store for the patient."

The arty opening sequence incorporated a stern voiceover, describing the assumptions of those who built the and singing. He joins a sort of
great hospital called "The hospital freemasoury - The
Kingdom" on the site of the Sons of the Morning - who will old hleaching ponds: "Perhaps look after his interests, but at their arrogance became too a terrible cost in humiliation.
pronounced, and their persist. He has patients who ask to be You wouldn't get that line of allergies to anaesthesia, and thinking on ER, would you? who hum loudly while be oper-But the plot certainly follows up this carly declaration by putting pressure on the two characters who pay more than ity (a rare sort of liver cancer)

hero of the piece, a Swedish moment, except that new surgeon whose human skills leave much to be desired. He's relatives' permission - which hrusque and obsessed with the they won't give - to dissect. correct procedures: he makes. There's a legal loophole, but it



All stitched up—well, nearly

no secret of his contempt for little Denmark and sloppy Danes. What he does keep secret is that he was responsible for a child's brain damage in the course of an operation. There is nothing remotely like able about Helmer, but the way that the plot keeps throwing his way precisely the sort of situation he can't handle makes him a stubbornly sympathetic monster. He has a boss who tries to jazz up morning con-ference with first names (Helmer's first name is Stig)

ates on them. lip service to rationalism. shows up only about once a One of these is Helmer decade. There's a wonderful Ernst-Hugo Järegård, the anti-specimen in the hospital at the

legislation means he needs the

It's a made-for-TV film with artistic credentials, a weird cast of characters - and it's four and a half hours long. By Adam Mars-Jones

the more effect: a for being Ranged against the rational-

leads him into a truly grotesque ologist in love with a tumour, ghost story. The supernatural course of action, which is all and a black marketeer with a material is discreetly handled. conscience. The quartet of prin-

material is discreetly handled. without overweening effects. In cipals is completed by Mrs four and a half hours, there is Ranged against the rational-ists are one pragmatist and one hypochondriac elairvoyant. She only one Poltergeist shot (phan-tom hand reaches up through

"The great accomplishment of The Kingdom is its blending of black comedy, farce and ghost story

hypnotised because of their tor who lives in the basement of the hospital, runs a sort of clearing house for the institution's surplus. His definition of The other devotee of reason recycling is broad, including as is a pathologist whose special it does the precipitating-out of cocaine from leftover eye medication, which he then sells to the doctors. Hook keeps a little symbolic cemetery, with crosses representing patients damaged by negligence, and trades in knowledge as well as in equipment. A negligent martinet, a path-

the whiff of a haunting when she hears a girl crying in the lift shaft. Mrs Drusse is the most sympathetic of the characters, a sort of Scandinavian Margaret Rutherford, except in her tyrannising of her poor defeated bear of a son, who just. happens to work as a printer in the hospital to which she so regularly seeks admission.

The great accomplishment of The Kingdom is its blending of black comedy, farce and

spiritualist. Hook, a junior doc- gets herself admitted for an ini- grating to grah doll) and one trolley loaded with ghosts passes through visiting dignitary).

So careful is the plot conclimax arrives without our noticing the build-up. A government minister is invited by Helmer's awful superior to inspect the hospital, and everywhere his eye falls there are unauthorised operations and impromptu exorcisms going on. If this is a beautiful piece of art construction that doesn't

tpain experienced as pleasure), then that is only because we know the reasons behind each tableau of misbehaviour, and can no longer view things with a conventional eve. The only doubts attaching to the project must come from its

release the faree emotions

use of a pair of Down's Syndrome dishwashers as a sort of chorus. Their scenes in the scullery are somehow pastoral. and take place in a filtered ivory light, but it is still unsatisfactory to show Down's Syndrome people as eeric children (they are fully aware of all the ghosts! who have no part in the human world (we only see them interacting with each other). The portrayal of a Haitian member aginary complaint, but catchies Ghostbusters moment (hospital of the hospital staff is also rather slapdash - the film seems rather to share Helmer's assumption that anyone from struction that a major farce Haiti knows voodoo as a matter of course. But the only absolutely unsat-

isfactory thing about The Kingdoni is that final phrase, coming after such a magnificent stretch of controlled narrative: To Be Continued ... how long will the waiting be? ■ At the ICA, London. SWI from Fri 5 Jun (0171-930 3647)

also showing

Weighty matters, light work

HEAVY James Mangold (15) THE WHITE BALLOON Jafar Panahi (U)



Deborah Harry in Heavy: beauty gone to seed

Fed up with Christmas? The week's two new films are not quite calculated to make you forget the horrors of the holiday season. Heavy, as the title indicates, is guaranteed to stir deep pangs of guilt in festive bingers: its hero. Victor. a pizza ehef at a run-down diner in rural upstate New York, tips the scales at a trim 250lbs. Ads for the slimming food he is taking, without much enthusiasm, appear at every turn to taunt him. But there's fat chance of his losing weight while his mother, for whom he devotedly fries up a calorific breakfast every morn-

ing, is there to boss him around Nor will he fulfil his secret dream of going to college to hecome a proper cook. Repressed, innocent and childlike almost (but not quite) to the point of being retarded, his little world is circumscribed by the café, its hard-bitten waitress and handful of regulars. Then his life is upended by two events - the arrival of a pretty college drop-out as the diner's second waitress, and his mother's sudden death - both of which nudge him slowly, clumsily towards the possibility (nothing

more) of self-renewal. We're somewhere adjacent to Mike Leigh territory here:
Heavy – which is a comedy –
dwells on the poignant humour of struggling, vaguely dissatisfied people failing to connect with each other. It's a film of looks and silences rather than speech. depending less on its almost event-free narrative than on impressionistic moments and the characters. The net result is a shade slow

lor Vince as the lovelorn pizza man, and an interesting sup-Tyler as the girl he has a crush on and Deborah Harry and Shelley Winters as, respectively, the older waitress and Victor's mother, two alarming manifestations of beauty gone spectacularly to seed.

| NOTA |

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DEDICAL DAK

301 fizentri

The White Balloon is tlike Heavy | a first feature, and reveals that in Iran, too. national holidays are dominated by shrill-voiced little horrors making endless demands on their parents' time, energy and pocketbooks. Razieh, aged seven, wants a goldfish (a tra-ditional New Year accessory), hut not any old goldfish from the pond in her own back garden. She wants a big fat goldfish from the market that will cost her mother the last bank

note in her purse. When she loses the money at the beginning of her mission. it's the pretext to introduce a series of colourful snapshots of local street life; a pair of shady snake charmers, a tailor con-tending loudly with a disgruntled client, a soldier who can't afford the bus fare to join his family for the festivities, a lonely Afghan refugee.

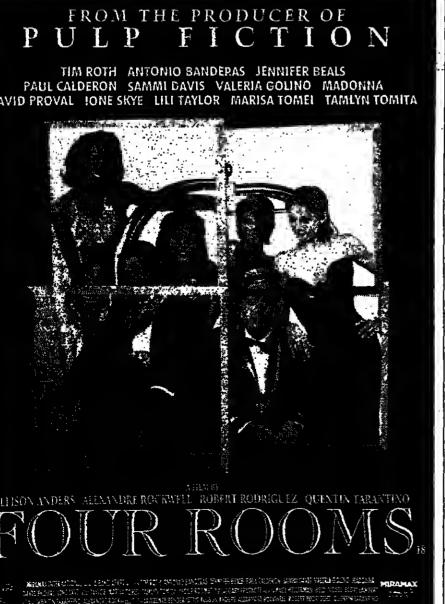
The White Balloon looks simple, naïve even, but it's driven by a director. Jafar Panahi, who knows exactly what he wants: note, for instance, the elegantly choreographed long opening shot and stylish, primary-coloured production design. Cast loosely in the neo-realist tradition, it bangs no political drums, but does hint at some of the problems on the fringes of Iranian society, especially in

the bittersweet closing scene. And it makes it clear that. whether for Razieh, whose adventures on the almost entirely male-populated streets of Tehran are stalked by a vague sense of menace, or for her mother, who is hectored by an unseen husband but driven by a performance of railing at her from the bathgreat sweetness by Pruitt Tay- room, heing female in that country is not a whole lot of fun. As screen kids go, Razieh porting cast which includes Liv herself is a clever fictional creation: she's more than annoying enough not to he cute, but you end up inwardly applauding her pluck. 2 On release from tomorrow

SHEILA JOHNSTON

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200; Rier 155, 325; Warner W End 1240, 230 8, POSTBO 1151 Chelera MGM 9-85; Parman 8 300M 200; 4-20, 6-20, 9-20; Snajb. Are MGCM 210, 5-25; S.25; Survivo on the 188 2-85, 455, 700 9 THE SHIPT CARRS (U) Chelera MGCM 12-25, 2-45, 4-55; 7-10; Orlevan High St Kirn 12moon, 2-25, 4-55; Smus Cottage Outcom 1.10, 4-10, 6-55; Orlevan Metr End, Leienster Sg R 45; UCI Rhinoleys 11-2018m, 1-30, 3-50, 6-10, 8-40 THE SCIENCE LETTER (15) Odern Mess. Leis Sq x 25 © SHAMEH TRUE (15) Carson West End 1.50 3.30, 6.05, 8.40 THE SHOUTER (15) Tenendero MGM 9.15

SSUR W SSUR | 15) Fig. MCA/ 120, 345, 640, 840 THE STUM PRINCESS (11) Tropastoro MCM | 225, 230, UCT Whitelps | 1,30, 1,45 ● THRE WINES (PG) Trocadero MGM 1250. 3.30; Riemer Ries End 2.10, 230, 4.50 HE TO THE BODS (18) Plans 1.50, 405, 6.30, 8.35 ② TO DE FOR 1.57 / KNOWNARD MCM 2.20, 5.25, 8.30, Colour Hall St Rev 7.105, 945, Colour Mess, Let Sy B. M. Marrie W. F. 1.10, 3.30, 5.50, 8.30 Leic S₂ 8.4°; Winter W E 1.10, 3.50, 5.50, 8.30 ● TO WINE PRO (PG) Place 3.55, 8.40 BOTHE SHEE Z. DINST TERRITORY (18) Winter West End 7.10, 9.40 DISTRIBUTE (PG) FOR OLD AIR MOM LDS, 4.35, 7.10, 9.35; Nort Hall Convent 2.00, 4.10, 6.30, 8.45; Rizer Commun 2.30, 6.55 ● THE BORN SIFFER (18) Partiers St MGM 1.05, 4.30, 7.00, 9.25; Winter W E 1.35, 4.15, 6.25, 9.37

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THEATRE **WEST END**

BLOCK SHITTHESS

Phoese Ches X Rd (0171-369 1733 | © Lee Sq Moo-Su 7-55 (5] 3.00 (7] 4.00, £9-50-£27-50. THE BREAK OF DAY

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Science Sq. 28-30 Dec. 3-6 Jan. 730, mais 30 Dec. 6 Jan. 230, io rep to 13 Jan. 15-D& conseaval. Stand Aldwich, WC2 (0171-9308301) & Coven Carden Charing X. For Thu 3.00, Fri 5.70 & 8.31 Se 5.00 & 6.30, [1] 4.00, 02-028.50. EATS

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COMPANY Donnar Warehouse Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-369) 17321 © Lew Sq. Mon-Sat 7.50. 417 3.00 ends 2 Mar. £12-£24. CRAZY FOR YOU

The California (Nd Compton Street, W) 10171-73489511 ← Lete Sq. Tait Ci Rd. Mon-Sai 745. [7] 330C emb 24 Feb. £11.54-£30 Sarry Strand, WCD 10171-831-8868,9 to 536 04791 ← Charing X Embarkment, Mon-Fri 8,10, Sat 8,15, [4] 2,30, [7] 5,02, £10-€2250.

DEAD COURTY

Apollo Shafteshury Avenue, W1 (0)71-494
5070(← Proc Car., Mon-Fri N (0) Sat 5:00 & 8:15, [5] 3:00, ends 27 Jan. (8-£3). **POOT DRESS FOR BRINER** *Duchess Catherine Street.* W.E.2 (0171-494)

5075cc 379 4444) ◆ Covent Garden, Mon-Fri

800, Sat 5 00 cc 8 50, [4] 3 (0, U-4) 8.50.

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THE CLASS MEMORIPE: Cornelly Patton S, SW1 [17]71-369 [73] [\$\P \text{Picc Care, Mon-Sq17-30, [7] 3/10, 16 [6 Mar., 25-22].} GREASE

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THE MOUSETRAP

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" $\star\star\star\star$ the best movie of the year" Shelley Winters Liv Tyler "Brilliantly executed..." Eur Deborah Harry "Potent...a debut to watch" Even Dendo Pruitt Toyler Vince EFILM BY JAMES MANGGED STARTS TOMORROW MGM HAYMARKET

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A tale of two rulers

For many years Syria regarded itself as the redoubt of steadfastness in the Arab world and President Hafez aldeemed himself the standard-bearer of confrontation with Israel

But President Assad has discovered that applause from the remaining Arab radicals and the grudging admiration of Islamic fundamentalists provide neither insurance for his regime nor a viable econ-

omic future for his people.

That is why he joined the Gulf war against Saddam Hussein of Iraq and then entered the American-sponsored peace negotiations that followed the allied victory of 1991. Four years ago, the Syrian leader was playing the long game for which he is renowned. Many Arabs. detesting the peace talks and regarding their fruits as scant and withered, wish be

would play the game to infinity. But President Assad, spurred on by the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the accession of Shimon Peres, appears to have decided that the moment is at hand for hard dealing. Syrian and Israeli epvoys began talks yesterday under a cloak of discretion at a countryside retreat outside Washington. The United States hopes that these surroundings may encourage the same brutal realism as that which gave birth to the accords on the former Yugoslavia reached at Day-

The chief Syrian negotiator, Walid al-Mualem, is quoted as saying that he arrives intent on defending Syria's fundamental rights. No weary reader of the official Damascus press would expect anything less. Yet President Assad seems to glimpse within his grasp the return of all the Golan Heights occupied by Israel,

a prize that has eluded him since Henry ssinger's sbuttle diplomacy more than

two decades past.

There is hardly a stone on the Golan Heights unturned by the military cartographers. The protagonists know the arguments and could recite the possible dispositions of forces in their sleep. They are separated more by concepts than detail. Syria wants a mere land transaction, Israel a state of peace that will ease its harmonious accommodation into the nations and markets of the Middle East. In fact, the two are inseparable in their effect. President Assad and Mr Peres are too wily a pair of old birds, therefore, not to appre-

ciate how fundamental is their next move.

A word here about Mr Peres. He is depicted by the Israeli Right, and by its ill-instructed editorial apologists abroad, as a man so bent on advancement in the pantheon of history that he would betray fsract's security for a quick and easy deal. Such a view neglects his lifetime dedication to the cause of Israeli military and nuclear superiority over its Arab foes. It is also ignorant of modern political reality, for the Israeli Prime Minister may only

move at the measure of his cabinet. Mr Peres has indeed said that he puts peace before his own electoral prospects in 1996. But to carry a deal returning the Golan Heights, he will need to command a broad spectrum of Israeli opinion. He deserves every ounce of support he can

As for President Assad, he, too, is walk-ing with destiny, for he no longer has age, health or a smooth succession on his side. Both men must know that at stake is the most crucial political decision in the Middle East since the creation of Israel

Backing the **British boffin**

image does it conjure up? Possibly your picture is of a wispy-haired loon, peering over cracked bifocals and gabbling about a deranged scheme for using household sewage to feed the population of Derbyshire. The fictional Professor Branestawm might serve as your model.

But it is more likely that your mind's eye sees a stolid hero, struggling against the odds to have a revolutionary idea recognised for the brilliant innovation that it is. The inventor of the bouncing bomb. Barnes Wallis, might be the prototype. This would reflect the feeling that many Britons have long nurtured about home-grown ideas: that we have the amazing notions, but that it is left to foreigners to develop and profit from them.

This is a view endorsed by a grouping of more than 300 British inventors, the Intellectual Property Development Confederation. They believe that many bright ideas fail to be exploited commercially. Their supporters point out that only about 80 of the 4,000 patents granted each year in Britain are ever manufactured. Big companies are often highly resistant to new inventions. According to one expert, "successful innovations always start as a joke, become a threat and end as being obvious". Many fail to make it at all.

Why is this? Sometimes inventors simply do not know where to go with their ideas, who will be most interested. Even the more enlightened organisations seeking a commercial rate of return are unlikely to lend money to a lone inven-

Last week I heard the word Napoleonic" being used to

mean mediocre and small-scale.

Now, not much about Napoleon

was mingy, but in this case it was, as

far as I could make out, used

It turned up in an edition of Radio 3's Night Waves, in which

there was a discussion chaired by

Roy Porter on politicians who had

had writing amhitions. Napoleon,

said one expert, had wanted to be a

writer before he ever became a

soldier, and had in fact written a long

Rousseauesque work, which he had

hopefully submitted to a literary

Being not even as good as had Rousseau, it had failed, and

Napoleon had compensated for

this by joining the army and con-

quering half the known world, thus

leading to exile on St Helena where,

as far as I know, he did not return

to his ambition of churning out

The conversation ranged over

other politicians who had tried their

hand at writing, notably Disraeli, but

then somebody brought up the fact that Winston Churchill had written

absolutely correctly.

competition.

fiction.

at least one novel.

onsider the word "inventor". What tor, So inventors need to be out in touch with those companies most open to exploiting their ideas. Even before getting to that stage they will often need facili-

tics to turn their ideas into prototypes. The inventors' confederation suggests that £4m of National Lottery cash should be matched by commercial sponsorship to create a National Innovation Centre. This would employ 50 people with the skills to evaluate ideas and generate contacts, and it would run its own laboratories to help produce prototypes. It proposes that such a centre should be ed in the East Midlands and linked to Nottingham Trent University.

One of the scheme's early supporters is the British inventor/businessman James Dyson. He invented and developed the hagless vacuum cleaner, was turned down by all the major electrical manufacturers, but persisted and sold it through mailorder catalogues. It was a classic good idea that nearly didn't happen. He believes that there are more Dysons out there, and that an Innovation Centre

might help them to succeed. There is, of course, a risk that money will be wasted by cerebral types on uncommercial ventures. In the absence of a financial imperative, the new centre would need to be given clear criteria to operate by, and it would have to be tough enough to say no to pleading boffins. But we should back Mr Dyson's hunch on this one. After all, a country that can afford a lottery-funded Centre of Sports Excellence really should be able to run a National Indovation Centre.

MILES KINGTON

"What was it like?" said someone.

"Oh." said the Napoleon expert,

Meaning drastically bad, like

Napoleon's writing. Nice one. But I

was disappointed, as the discussion

wore on, that nobody referred to

I have never read it. I do not know

what it is called. I only know that I

saw it listed in a second-hand book-

seller's catalogue about four months

ago, and I thought to myself at the

time: "Mussolini's only novel!

Should be well worth a read. I ought

to get that." Which was followed by

another thought: "Life is too short

to read Mussolini's novels, especially

when you haven't read any George

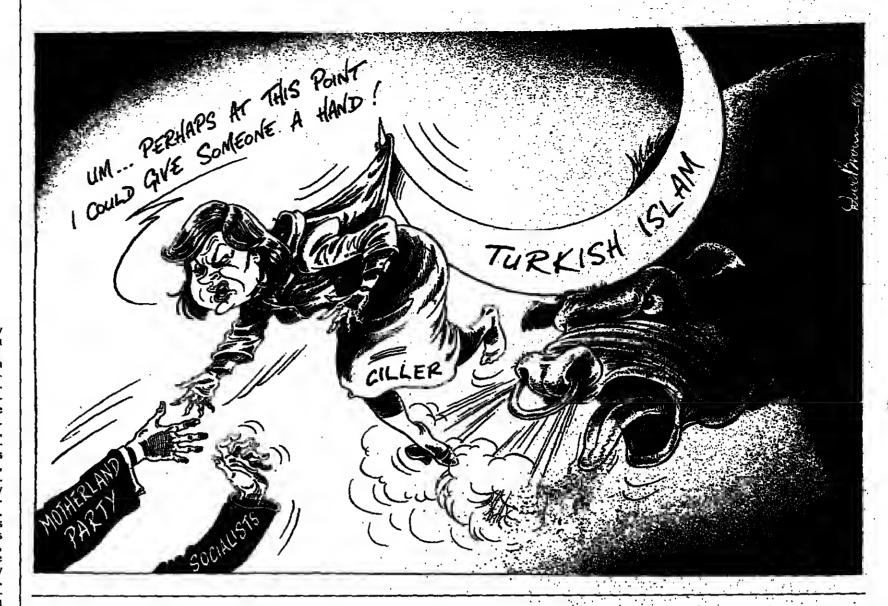
Eliot yet ...'

"I would say that Churchill's fiction

had Napoleonic stature."

Benito Mussolini's novel.

Inside every great person is a rotten novel



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Hidden significance of arms decommissioning | We subjects are not amused

From Mr N. D. Manin-Clark Sir: It is perhaps no surprise to anyone that talks between the various parties concerned in Northern Ireland should run into an impasse before they even begin, but it may seem odd that the stumbling block should be the apparently minor issue of arms decommissioning. How-ever, as in relationships between individuals, fundamental disagreements come to a head over small things and part of their res-olution lies in teasing out the significance of the apparently

In this case, the reason for IRA Intransigence is that the British Government appears to render as for a literal submission, a public mea culpa from the nationalists that will hand them the moral high ground and vindicate their own position throughout the years of the Troubles. The handing over of weapons before a political settlement is tantamount to an admission by the IRA that they were wrong to have taken them up in the first place.

Of course, this is indeed what the British Government thinks: but it is also a telling example of the "nanny state". The British Government is treating grown men and women with whom it has political differences as misguided children who will buckle to parental authority in the end.

However, the norms of civilised society as interpreted by the British are irrelevant to those who do not see themselves as British. Across the globe, bemused members of the Establishment have had to grapple

with this bizatre truth but nowhere, it seems, have they found it harder than in their own backvard.

Such patronising attitudes, while apparently benign or merely ridiculous, are as much an exercise in power as any armoured convoy, and their effects can be equally murderous. They are a façade behind which the British establishment seeks to protect itself from the painful acknowledgment of its own bloody role in the history of Ireland. It is in this respect that the British Government has shown itself to be most tacking in humanity, and its consequence can only be the breeding of inhu-manity in others.

The growing complacency in this country towards the peace process serves only to encourage this approach and make ever. more present the dangers of a split in the republican movement and the resumption of violence.

Yours faithfully, N. D. MARTIN-CLARK Crawley, West Sussex 20 December

From Professor G. L. Huxley Sir: Speaking at Ballymena on 21 December, the Prime Minister gave his hearers to understand that "decommissioning" - that is, the unilateral handing-m of some or all of their arms by the Provisional IRA - was a part of the Downing Street Declaration. Had Messrs Adams and McGuinness or any other member of Sinn Fein agreed to such decommissioning, there could hardly have been a "peace process" and their own expecta-

tions of survival would have been diminished. The emphasis upon decommissioning on the part of British politicians came later than the Declaration, at the behest of Ulster Unionists and of elements in the security forces in Northern Ireland.

Article 10 of the Declaration

The British and Irish Governments reiterate that the achievement of peace must involve a permanent end to the use of, or support of, paramilitary violence. They confirm that in these circumstances, democratically mandated parties which establish a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods and which ave shown that they abide by the democratic process are free to join in dialogue in due course between the governments and the political parties on the way

Nothing is said, or implied, here about handing in of weapons.

A survey conducted in November 1994 revealed that there were 130,000 weapons legally held by loyalists. The numbers of illegally held weapons in possession of loyalists is not known. The British Government has yet to explain how loyalist arms are to be decommissioned. Insistence upon decommissioning in advance of political negotiations is therefore not reasonable, and the suggestion that decommissioning was part of the Declaration is deficient in verscity. Yours faithfully, GEORGE HUXLEY Trinity College

Dublin 21 September

'Right of reply' does not resolve disputes

From Mr Adrian Jack Sir: Walter Cairns's suggestion (Letters, 21 December) that libel actions be replaced by a statu-tory right of reply suffers from the grievous defect that the truth

read Mussolini's novel, nor indeed

any Eliot. As indeed I haven't read

Sarah Bernhardt's only novel, which

I also saw listed in a catalogue

once. But I think there is the begin-

nings of a programme here: forget-table but possibly fascinating novels

by people who turned out to he

much better at things like acting Hamlet with a wooden leg or invad-

ing Abyssinia. I don't know how

many of these lost novels there are,

how many forgotten novellas by

Bismarck, General Franco or the

Queen Mother, but I do know that

if anyone turns this into a series,

they must not leave out the only

novel by Jean Harlow, the blonde

It's called Today is Tonight and I bought a second-hand copy of this in what seems to be the first edition,

hrought out posthumously in paper-back by Dell in 1965. The original

price was 60 cents and I got it for

15p, but it's worth a good deal more

than that, as it is rather a good story

about a man and his wife who go

crash in 1929 and emerge from it

sadder and wiser, especially as the husband has meanwhile gone blind

and has to be looked after by the

bombshell.

So I didn't buy it, and I haven't wife, who takes a job as a night-club

would never be established. The Sunday Times's allegation against David Ashby was that he was a hypocrite in speaking up for family values when he was a practising homosexual. Whether Mr

hostess to support him, but conceals

this from him by making him believe

I have never met anyone who has

ever read, or even seen, this novel by

Jean Harlow. I did, however, once

meet a man at a Punch lunch who

worked in Hollywood in the Thirties

and whose job, among other things,

was to chaperone Jean Harlow to

be told me. "She couldn't listen to

enough of his piano-playing. But the

studio wouldn't let ber go out at

night alone. So I had to accompany her. Believe me, I got to hear a lot

I asked him if he knew about Jean

Harlow's novel. He said he believed

he had heard about it, but he had

never read it. It wasn't his job to read

her novels. Taking her to hear Art

Tatum was bad enough, he said. I

couldn't believe my ears. Taking

Jean Harlow to bear Art Tatum and

being paid for it would be my idea

any other novels unsuspectedly

written by celebrities, please let me

know. It could make us both

So, anyway, if anyone knows of

"She was crazy about Art Tatum,"

that daytime is night-time ...

night-clubs.

of Art Tatum."

Ashby was a practising homosexual is a matter of fact which (if disputed) can only ultimately be determined in a court of law. One sympathises with Mr Ashby, because the evidence for

his being a homosexual (at least on the basis of newspaper reports) seemed a little thm: but the jury decided that he was. It follows that the Sunday Times's attack on him was justified. Giving Mr Ashby a right of reply would not have resolved that important issue. Yours sincerely, ADRIAN JACK

Barrister London, EC4 22 December

Cold humour

From Mr Chris Martin Sir. It is not Roger Mear's short-lived Antarctic adventure, but the tiresomely scomful and condescending tone of Alix Sharkey's onslaught ("Dear Roger Mear"; Open Letter, 19 December) which I find "depressingly familiar – and typically British".

Taking the mickey may well be the nestional restricted.

the national pastime, but how about a ceasefire down at the vindictive end of the comedy spectrum? In my native Australia, humour is altogether more good-natured, and there is also a good-natured, and there is also a venerable tradition of respecting anyone prepared to "have a go". Roger Mear's achievement of 500 solitary, unassisted Antarctic

miles in six weeks sounds like a decent effort to me. Well done,

mate. Yours sincerely, CHRIS MARTIN London, W1

From Mr Randhir Singh Bains Sir: Your leading article "Divorce is the only answer for a modern age" (22 December) rightly states that the British public no longer attaches any stigma to divorce. Neither Prince Charles nor the Princess of Wales, however, is an ordinary member of the public, they are members of an institution that is supposed to act as an epicentre of high moral values. Members of this institution are not democratically elected, but they are still accountable to the general pub-lic for esponsing and impossing those high moral values.

By admitting adultery in front ROBERT READMAN of millions of television viewers, both Prince Charles and Princess Diana have seriously dented the moral credibility of the institution of monarchy. Like any other person who holds high office but violates its sanctity, they should both "resign" and publicly apologise for undermining the integrity of one of the highest offices" in the country. Yours faithfully, RANDHIR SINGH BAINS

22 December From Mr Robert Readman Sir: The Princess of Wales is now being pilloried for not attending Sandringham at Christmas. With a cuming worthy of Machiavelli, the Queen invites Diana for Christmas, but follows it up a week before the event with the

Gants Hill, Essex

his wife, nor has there been any word of condemnation for him. from the Queen or Prince Philip. Rather, he has chosen to lay the Exeter blame for his predicament on 22 December

everyone else, including Diana and his parents. Even more shamefully, the Palace has taken every opportunity to denigrate and destroy the Princess who, after all, only turned to other men once her husband had blatantly shown his lack of love and respect for her and his sons.

Do we really want a man of this

calibre to reign over us?
The Windsors need to be reminded that they rule not by "Divine Right" as espoused by the Stuarts, but by the will of the people and the people's will is cing sorely tried. Sincerely,

Sandbanks, Dorset 27 December

From Ms Nicola McLean Sir: Presumably, since the Church of England is relieved at Prince s intention not to marry again ("Church is saved from dilemma over remarrisge", 22 December), it prefers instead that he should have affairs which will lead to nothing. Yours faithfully, NICOLA MCLEAN Lordon, SW1 22 December

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From Mr H. E. Lupton Sir: The most intriguing character in the royal soap is, I think,
"Buckingham Palace"; clearly an
all-knowing and very powerful
personage. When I take a stroll
down the Mall, to which particannouncement that she and her ular window, chimney, drampipe husband must get divorced. or other orifice should I direct my The sickening thing in this gaze in awe and admiration? whole sorry affair is that the Even when the Independent uses Prince of Wales has not once. some such phrase as "a spokes-expressed sorrow for betraying," woman for Buckingham Palace." the mystery remains. H. E. LUPTON

No judge is above | Axed: a creative public judgement

From Mr Dermot Feenan

Sir. Justice is not served by Peter Goldsmith's suggestion that the public should not protest to judges and magistrates about their sentencing (Comment, 11 December). Sentencing involves, in part, the exercise of judicial discretion. Unjust exercise of this discretion, of which there is ample evidence in this and other countries, is a legitimate target of public criticism.

Writing letters or communication by other media to judges registers direct concern about justice that the adversarial and appellate system, case law and legislation, courses offered by the Judicial Studies Board or advice from the Lord Chancellor may not, and

perhaps cannot, achieve.
British judges, unelected and drawn overwhelmingly from white, male Onbridge graduates, remain largely removed from sig-nificant aspects of public concern. They sometimes apply inappro-priate assumptions and stereo-types. In the absence of transnt and more effective rules for addressing improper exer-cise of judicial office, public chal-lenge of judges can effectively serve the interests of justice. Yours sincerely.

Dermot Feenan Downpatrick, Co Down

outlet for insiders

From Ms June Wadans Sir. I go to a weekly poeny group.
Our futor, a gifted leacher, spends most of her time teaching in Wandsworth Prison. For our last class of the term we brought poems of our own choosing. She brought three poems from the prisoners, not special as poems perhaps, but remarkable as human witness, from men who had previously never even read a poem. To me these classes are a joy, to them a lifeline in a grim

visience. Our class starts again in January. Theirs is cut. In Wandsworth Prison, education classes have been cut by 50 per cent - all creative classes, all save the basics. Who knows? Who cares?

We send more and more people to prison, and spend more money on building ever more prisons at wast cost, and there we think we end our responsibility: Bet our respon-sibility remains towards people in prison. Education classes in prison are vital, and should not be cur. Rather let it be considered whether this large prison population is instified. Yours sincerely. JUNE WAJKINS Old Isleworth Middlesex

19 December Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daythur telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@indepe Letters may be edited for length and clarity.





comment

Now for the year when the lull breaks

If the Lib Dems and Labour can take a risk on electoral reform, the turgid mood of 1995 will start to lift

eafing through the cuttings, rem-iniscing with wine-enlightened friends, one's overwhelming impression of 1995 is of a year of frustration and blockage in politics. There has been plenty of surface flash and glit-

ter, but little forward thrust. The year's emblematic event was surely the summer drama of John Major's resignation. At the time it seemed to be a lapel-grabbing vintage tale, signifying quite a bit. His great gamble would transform his own posi-tion and that of his party. But ... it didn't. Rarely has such cliff-hanging

theatre produced such a tedious result.

The Prime Minister bas not enjoyed the enhanced authority be sought; the pre-Christmas fisheries rebellion was not a large event, but it reminded us of the underlying problem. The Conservatives have wallowed so far behind Labour in the polls that the polls have ceased to make news. The Budget was sensible, grey, underwhelming. The business of the Commons, from the Nolan report to minor European revolts, interested political obsessives but not the Plain People of these islands.

It had seemed equally clear that Tony Blair's victory in the Labour leadership contest last year was bound to produce either a new bout of ideological conflict or a sparkling new agenda. And again, what was "clear"

The internal argument about Clause IV was over before it started, ramming home how dominant Blair is. Since then Labour has jurked behind its leader's popularity while the Shadow Cabinet has - let us put this politely - avoided over-stimulating the public with bold initiatives.

The truth is that both of the main parties have been waiting all year. Labour is waiting for office, meeting industrialists, media tycoons and policy wonks, blocking in diaries with its election strategy. And the Conservatives are loitering about for signs of a recovery that people notice. For them and the Government losing its major-

in decided are

the grimmest thought is that this may

be as good as it's going to get.
Labour, in short, has been too far ahead to be bold, while the Conservatives have been too far behind to be rough. Had all the politicians taken a year out in the Bahamas, most people would barely have noticed. The hig stories were resolutely impolitical -drought, bealth scares, various murdeters. The greatest political coup came from the Princess of Wales.

It is tempting to argue that politics is losing its grip on the popular imag-ination because politicians can do so much less than they once promised. The power of global markets and compelling media images swamps the old Westminster game.

On that reading, Britain's sceptical attitude to the main parties is grown-

The main parties have been waiting all year: Labour for office. Tories for recovery

up. Unlike some countries, we are not turning to extremists—merely to royal soap opera and the sports pages.

The only unequivocally good story of the year, the Irish peace, could be seen as the victory of secular market

place values over politics - a lovely, civilian, decision-free hill. John Major has done nothing bold to secure a settlement; and despite ominous warnings, his passivity bas not had disastrous consequences. It has been more waiting, but a kind of waiting one vishes endless.

This quietism, though, cannot last through 1996. The lull will break. Away from the headlines the momentum for change is detectable everywhere.

Much bas been written, in somewhat morbid tones, about the likeli-



Columnist of the Year

ity. Resignations, hankruptcies and even floor-crossings cannot be ruled out. Who knows what the wretched David Ashby's new year will mean for him? At any rate, Conservative Central Office is prudently planning for the possibility of an election in about nine months' time.

But there is a rule, almost as inexorable as death, which is that governmeets do not go to the country early
if they believe they will lose. They
ignore inconvenient defeats. They
extend recesses. They do any damn
thing but resign. It is possible that the
Reaper will finish off the Major administration in 1996. But we would be very unwise to expect it.

What is likelier is yet another bout of Tory plotting directed at the Prime Minister. There are plenty on the right of the party who will say, lean fore-fingers tapping twitching noses, that Major did a deal with Michael Heseltine in the summer and if routed again in the local elections will stand down,

By theo the party will have become used to Heseltine as his deputy and the right will fail to stop him, In due course Hezza will band over to Chris Patten, the left's lost leader, who by then will have returned as MP for, say, Kensingtoo and Chelsea. So the conspiracy theory goes. I think it tells us oothing much except that the Con-servative Party finds it easier to expend its imagination on life after Major than to imagine his next five years of achievement.

general election campaign, even if not since the first European campaigns. you drink deeply to that.

the election itself. And if the Opposition intends to transform Britain, its leading figures have some serious decisions to make. Above all, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown have to decide what sort of relationship they want their parties to have, whether a closer alliance could propel the Conservatives out for longer than the four or five years that is normal before they return to their equally normal function, holding office.

This is a big decision because it marks the place where politics as normal breaks down and something new emerges. Thus far, even Labour reformers have tended to follow the Conservatives in regarding Liberal Democrats as a fringe group, to be mocked for their high-mindedness and dealt with, if at all, only as a last resort.

It is possible the Reaper will finish off Major, but we would be unwise to expect it

What the Lib Dems could offer Labour is a bigger chance of power this time and the break-up of the Conservative hegemony over a longer period. Twenty seats or so is a significant block in what may yet be a very close election. The parties are already similar in their agalysis of Europe, Scottisb and Welsh devolution, local government, education and reform of the Commons. A group called Lioc. which represents MPs and activists committed to Lib-Lab conversation. has produced a delightfully subversive inphlet describing the similarities,

These parties could, in theory, commit themselves to work together to reform those parts of the system, as they did in Scotland. They could make This would. I guess, have a big impact on the public mood of cynicism. It would be the worst thing that had happened to the Major administration since Black Wednesday.

Why isn't it rumhling ahead? The answer has nothing to do with rows over who would fight what constituency since virtually no one is now calling for an electoral deal. It is much more to do with the Labour leadership's lack of interest in electoral reform. Tony Blair has offered a referendum on it, but given the impression that he would campaign for the status quo. This would, of course, scupper the Lib Dems and make it likelier that, if a Blair administration stumbled four years in the Conservatives would come back as usual.

If Blair moves on voting reform in the year ahead, then politics generally will accelerate and start to change shape. Pluralism will cease to be a gim mick word among the pamphlet-writ-ing classes, and will become imagin-able to voters generally. The coming election will look ever more clearly like the watershed it surely is. If the Liberal Democrats and new Lahour retreat into knee-jerk mutual mockery and fail to take these kinds of risk, on the other hand, the turgid mood of 1995 will be slow to lift.

This is a strange momeot. It has not been a glorious year for politics. It has been almost as if everyone acknowledged that things could not carry on this way, and that some break with the slow, grey trudge of recent years was needed; yet no one was able to make it happen. We seem fated to act out, report and hear the same now-tedious rebellions, the same bland policy announcements, the same parliamentary hickering ... and across the land rolls the same slow national yawn.

As I raise an unsteady glass to the year ahead, I feel sure that the waiting will come to an end in 1996, at least ears of achievement. the sort of unsectariao declaration of with a political light that electrifies us But 1996 will certainly bring us the intent British politics has not seen all. With thanks to all readers - may

The world needs Britain to stay on the air

133 million listeners tune in to BBC broadcasts. Yet once again cuts are proposed, laments Andrew Marshall

One of the most memorable speeches of this year was Michael Portillo's brazen attempt to annexe the Special Air Service to the cause of anti-Europeanism at the Conservative Party conference. His performance was crapulous braggadocio, the worst example of the ignorant breast-beating which increasingly typifies Britain's attitude to the rest of

the world. Despite the posturings of the Secretary of State for Defence, if there is a British organisation with a three-letter name which is known and respected around the world, it is the BBC. That is principally because of World Service radio. hroadcasting in English and 40 other languages to 133 million

listeners. But while Mr Portillo was at pains to defend spending on the armed forces, the World Service is targeted for heavy cuts, which would reduce its ability to operate as the last truly global British institution.

The World Service is a marvel. Talk to any English speaker who has spent time abroad and they will pay tribute to its virtues, as have hostages freed from Lebanon and those English speakers like Aung San Suu Kyi who have had only a radio for comfort during long years of imprisonment.

Britain does not, however,

fund and operate the World Service purely for the benefit of jailed political prisoners, lonely travellers and troubled expats ("please gather on Aden beach at 0500 GMT where boats will he waiting to evacuate you"). Nor is it correct to assume that the World Service is purely a product of the need for a pro-paganda vehicle during the Cold War. It is a piece of enlightened self-interest, very much io tune with a world that is increasingly interlinked and which communicates in English.

The World Service sells the idea of Britain abroad. It does lish and spreading British news and views - but also indirectly. by hroadcasting news that is free of political interference. balanced and accurate. It has contributed to the better face of Britain in the world, as a liberal. intelligent and humane nation.

The idea of Britain which the BBC projects is not, as nonlisteners might imagine, stuck in the days of Empire. It is true that the strains of Lillibullero, along with a sonorous BBC tone of voice and a seriousness—tening anyway.

that has long been absent from the Home Service or the Light Programme, still hang on in the World Service. But it also has a range of programmes - seientific, cultural, frivolous, serious and all stops in between which show the many faces of modern British society.

On the musical front for instance, as well as the Proms and classical music there are John Peel. Andy Kershaw, Dave Lee Travis and even Bob Holness, the former presenter of Blockbusters. He hosts an eclectic show called .4mnhing Goes that might include the Goon Show or Blur.

The Government wants to lop £5.4m from the World Service's budget of £109m for 1994-95. The cash goes through the Foreign Office, where the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, has told us not to be "sentimental" about the savings. None the less, the cuts have already brought opposition from

The BBC World Service is the last truly global British institution

the usual suspects: BBC chicfs. MPs from both sides of the House and those who love good radio. In the past this coalition has often stopped cuts, or at least mitigated their impact.

Unfortunately, this time it may be different. For it is not just Foreign Office penury or the temptation of an easy penny saved which is at stake.

The World Service is, at its best, an emblem of a country which has been involved and interested in the world, which felt it had something worthwhile and important to say. The Britain of the Nineties is increasingly insular and unconcerned by anything which does not confirm its mediocre prej-

The Government suggests that commercial finance could fill the gap left by the cuts. allowing private capital to build new transmitters. That is unlikely to keep the World Service on the same wavelength that it has maintained for 63 years, broadcasting without fear or favour to every part of the world. But then, perhaps we don't have anything much to say to the world amy more; and perhaps we don't much care whether anyone is lis-

Judgment on the Rock

Wild criticism of the European Court over the Gibraltar Three is unjustified, says Trevor Hartley

The announcement that the Government had paid nearly £40,000 to the relatives of the three IRA terrorists killed by the SAS in Gibraltar caused predictable outrage. "Another surrender to Europe", the Daily Mail called it, alongside a feature attacking the European Union and the Court of Justice - neither of which had anything

to do with the payment.

Although it paid up, the Government had greeted the judgment by the European Court of Human Rights in September with outrage - "ludicrous", said Michael Heseltine - and threats to withdraw from its jurisdiction. The IRA and the relatives of the dead three were jubilant. They claimed it proved that the Government was guilty of murder, and even said it branded Britain as a "terrorist nation". However, neither reaction can be justified by anyone who looks

at what the judgment actually said.

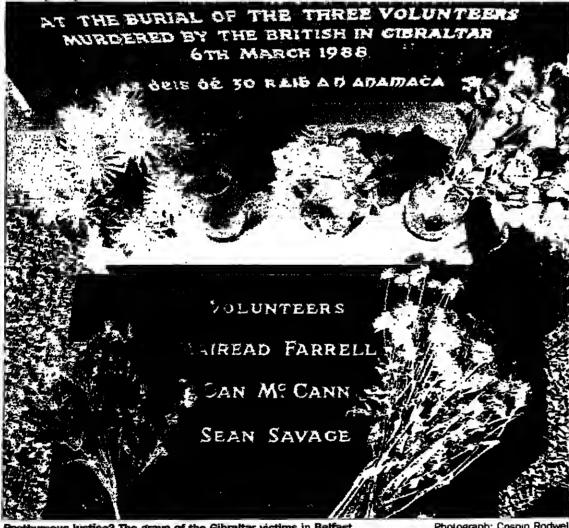
In fact the judgment came quite close to backing the British government line. The basic facts were awkward. In March 1988, three unarmed Irish people, one a woman, were mown down by the SAS in a hail of bullets. One eye-witness claimed that the soldiers had given no warning and then made no attempt to arrest the suspects. Moreover the car that one of them was seen parking contained no explosives.

No wonder the IRA claimed that

the three were murdered, and when an attempt to sue the Ministry of Defence in Northern Ireland was blocked as a result of certificates issued by the Government, their relatives lodged an application before the European Commission of Human Rights.

The Government based its argument on mtelligence reports that the IRA planned an attack in Gibraltar. The three were identified as members of an IRA active service unit. When one was seen parking a car, it was thought that the attack was imminent. IRA members on active service have been known to shoot their way to freedom when under threat of arrest. When challenged, each of the three had, according to the SAS, made a suspicious movement that could have been an attempt to draw a gun. The only way for the soldiers to protect their own lives and save those of other people was, the Government said, to kill.

Later a car was found in Spain that had been hired by one of the three under an assumed name. It contained Semiex and ammunition, showing that they were on a terrorist mission.



Posthumous Justice? The grave of the Gibraltar victims in Belfast

The Human Rights Commission held in favour of the UK by eleven votes to six. The case then went to the court. At this point the Government must have felt fairly confident. The shock and chagrin must bave been all the greater, therefore, when judgment went against the UK - and this by the narrowest of majorities. The court held by ten votes to nine that the UK had violated Article 2 of the con-

ention that protects the right to life. The European Convention on Human Rights was signed in Rome in 1950. Britain accepts the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights and the preliminary filtering body, the

European Commission of Human Rights. The Human Rights Convention is the most notable achievement of the Council of Europe, a body that is completely separate from the EU and has a much wider membership. Originally seen as a hulwark against the resurgence of Nazism in Europe, the Human Rights Convention was regarded at the time of its inception as particularly advanced, both because of the detail and precision of its provisions - most declarations on human rights are notorious for their vague generalities - and because of its enforcement mechanism: the commission and the

court. The fact that individuals could

Photograph: Cospin Rodwell bring proceedings before these bodies most international bodies allow only

governments to do this - was also seen praiseworthy. For many years the United Kingdom has accepted the right of individuals to bring cases against it, but it does so only for five years at a time. It would be open to it to withdraw when the time comes for it to renew its acceptance. In the past it has occasionally made threatening noises when it has not approved of a decision by the court, but so far it has always renewed its acceptance.

Article 2 of the convention prohibits deliberate killing, save in the execution of a sentence of a court for an offence

punishable by death. There are, however, three exceptions: self-defence or defence of others from unlawful violence; making an arrest or preventing a person from escaping; and quelling a riot or insurrection. The UR argued | this directly - by teaching Engthat the Gibraltar killings were excused by the first of these.

The court accepted that the SAS soldiers were not guilty of murder or of any unlawful killing. They accepted the Government version that the soldiers honestly - though, as it turned out, wrongly - believed that they had to act as they did to protect their own lives and the lives of others. To this extent the Government was vindicated. Nine of the judges, including the president of the court, held that the UK had not violated the convention at all. The majority, however, held that there was a violation, though not by the SAS soldiers. They ruled that the UK was at fault for allowing the situation to develop in which the soldiers believed that they had no option but to kill the suspects.

The Government admitted that they could have arrested the three suspects when they entered Gibraltar. However, if they had done that they would not bave had enough evidence to bring them to trial. The authorities decided to wait therefore, until they could get the car which they hoped would contain a bomb. The court felt that the authorities should have evalnated their information more carefully: for example, by considering the possibility that the car parked by one of the suspects might have been put there to keep the parking space free

for a later car loaded with explosives. In the end, therefore, the UK was found guilty of not having taken sufficient care to ensure that the lives of IRA personnel were protected. Some might feel that when known terrorists are at work one should not risk innocent lives, even if the risk is slight. The court disagreed. Nevertheless, the court accepted the Government's version of the facts, thus vindicating in large measure the UK. It awarded no compensation to the relatives, just costs, showing that the court accepted that the three were themselves out to kill. It may have been unfortunate that it did not hold fully for the Government, but the wilder criticisms of the court are not justified.

The writer is professor of law at the London School of Economics.

BEFORE YOU PHONE THE WORLD PHONE US.

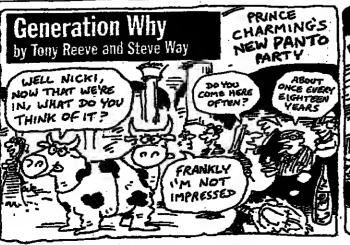
Destination.	First Telecom	Mercury	Sove %
USA	10p	29p	66%
India	62p	97p	36%
South Africa	40p	60p	33%
Hong Kong	35p	56p	37%
Japon	36р	75p	52%
Australia	19p	45p	57%
Brazil	60p	85p	29%
Canada	14p	29p	52%
Germany/France	18p	22p	18%
Israel	56p	70p	20%

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obituaries/gazette

Professor Derek Birchall

Derek Birchall was struck by a was that the two most abundant vehicle on a pedestrian crossing in London on 30 November. After several days on a life-support machine he died without regaining consciousness on 7 December. So much for bare scientific fact; it would be impossible to describe Derek Birchall in such solemn or merely factual scientific terms.

He started as a chemist and lone inventor but later crossed the chasms between industry. academe and government. I shall remember him for his humour, vitality, inventiveness son who would joke about gnnitas; the opposite of the pompous scientist, but one who was also a committed family man and lay preacher.

It is ironic that Birchall's greatest concern over the past 20 years was the health of people connected to hospital ma-chinery, especially dialysis equipment. He had known that certain kidney patients suffer health problems after dialysis. with severe pain in the bones and loss of memory leading to total brain damage. This was clearly dependent on the local water used to wash the blood in the dialysis machine because the problems disappeared when pure water was used. What was amusing to Birchall was the north/south divide; London's filthy water caused no problems whereas cleaner northern water led to damage.

Birchall was the first person to realise the importance of dissolved silica (i.e. sand) in the water. Although this mineral only dissolves in very small quantities, about 10 parts per million. London water is thick with it. whereas Scottish water has little. The enigma is that silica does not seem to have any hisological function. It is not poisonous and is not used in drugs. a fact which Birchall had agonised over since the 1960s. It seemed bizarre to him that the most common mineral on earth had no role in life.

The ingenious, and controversial, idea he postulated was that silica is only one component in the problem. Some other chemical in the water causes the disease. This turned out to he alumina, the second most abundant mineral on earth, an allpervasive slow-acting poison which is washed out of rocks by acid rain, killing plants. Iish and ultimately humans. Birchall's deceptively simple reasoning. Birchall: experiments with beer

chemicals on earth, silica and alumina, fight against each other to permit life. All the other common elements, such as hydrogen, oxygen, iron, calcium. sodium, polassium, can then play their role in our bodies.

Birchall knew that the tests

and demonstrations required to convince the scepties would take years. With his colleagues he showed first that fish could be poisoned by very small quanuties of alumina dissolved in water. Then he added silica and the fish survived. When he arrived at Keele University as Professor of Chemistry in 1992 he devised the most beautiful and popular experiment to prove his concept. He asked for student volunteers to drink beer. Beer contains lots of dissolved silica which should pick up alumina in the body, and remove it in the urine. Birchall demonstrated this by analysing the student urine and seeing the alumina poison flush out. I cannot visit public houses now without feeling the curative effects.

This story diustrates Bir-

chall's intense love of chemistry. of life and of his colleagues. He was not a conventional academic. He proved that night school in Wigan can lead to great scientific achievement. After National Service in the late 1940s he became interested in fire and the chemistry required to stop it. His first nvention was a chemical which he made by stewing blood. This was added to the foam used for fighting fires and helped the fram to survive the flames. He was proud that the money received for this product allowed him to huv a motorbike, which he later sold to get married. It was amazing to him that he could follow his interests in chemistry, yet be paid to support his wife and two sons. Later,



tinuing passion for fire led to his invention of "Monnex", a dry powder fire extinguisher which was more effective at dousing petrol fires than anything before or since. The demonstration of this is so dramatic that it has convinced many a young arsonist, including me, to turn to

chemistry as a way of life. Most of Birchall's working life was at ICI Winnington in the 1950s and 1960s, and then at Runcorn in the 1970s and 1980s. Although he rose to the top of the scientific ladder in Britain's largest chemical company, he recognised the intrinsic democracy of scientific ideas, and would enjoy any kind of scientific experiment or discussion around a blackboard. No one was excluded. Birchall told hilarious stories

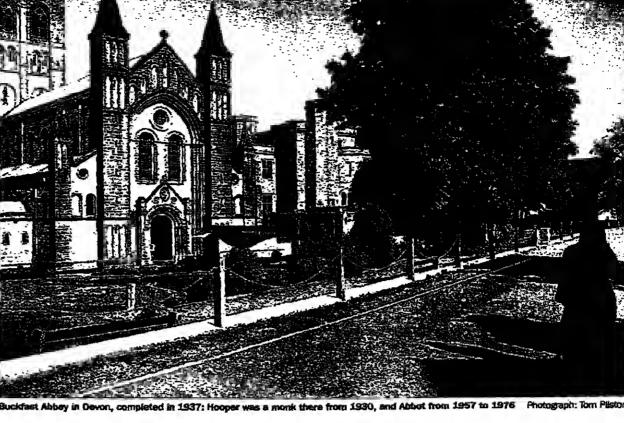
about the chemical industry, not always complimentary to the management. Once he gave a lecture to the board with the message that ICI was doomed. Of course he was correct. Only the timescale can be argued, and Birchail argued on a long timescale. His paper on the unimportance of relevance should be read by all who govern industry. His contributions to science were recognised in his FRS election in 1982. His work for government was rewarded by his appointment as OBE in 1990.

Birchall will be most remembered by the porters, engineers and metal workers. Whenever they open a furnace door they will see his bestknown invention, the woolfy ceramic insulation now used in all high-temperature ovens. It was used in the space shuttle, and is found in cars, in pistons and air bags. He was the first to show how this wool could be made by spinning alumina into fibres by a chemical process, giving a superbly insulating blanket which would survive enormous temperatures. He was still enthusiastically pursuing these ceramic interests, as a director of Ceram Research and as Professor at Keele University, at the time

Kevin Kendati James Derek Birchall, chemist: born Leigh, Lancashire 7 October 1930; staff. ICI 1956-92; FRS 1982; OBE 1990; Professor Pauline Jones (died 1990; two

sons); died London 7 December

of his death.



Abbot Placid Hooper

Placid Hooper was the fourth abbot of the restored Buckfast Abbey in Devon, and the first English one. He set the monastery on its course from a German community belonging to an Italian grouping of abbeys to an English Benedictine community.

Founded in 1018 with the authority of King Canute, Buckfast was destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and only became a monastery again in 1882, when monks expelled from France by antireligious laws moved there. With them were two young Germans from Swahia, a Catholic district of the kingdom of Württemberg. When, a few years later, the penal laws in France were repealed, most of the community returned to the mother house. The two Germans did a recruitment campaign in Swabia, and Buckfast became a German community.

By 1903 they had become independent of the French mother house and able to select their own abbot. The first, Boniface, was one of the original Swabian monks: the second, Ansear, elected in 1906, oversaw the rebuilding by the monks of Inorganic Chemistry, Keele of the abbey church on its orig-University 1992-95; married 1956 inal 12th-century foundations: ordained priest in 1935. In the work was completed in July 1937, a few months before Abbot Anscar died. His successor.



Abbot Bruno Fehrenbacher, guided the mostly German community through the difficult years of the Second World War. He resigned as Abbot in 1956 and the community elected Father Placid Hooper.

Father Placid was horn Thomas Hooper, in 1911, into a family of Taunton grocers. He was educated at Huish's Grammar School in Taunton and in 1929 joined the community at Buckfast, where he was given the name of Placid. He made his profession as a monk the following year and after the prethe intricate ceremonial of litur- 1960 Buckfast was officially

gical functions required dedi-cated specialists; Pather Placid. who had been keenly interested in the liturgy since he was a iunior monk, was appointed Master of Ceremonies.

in the Second World War Placid Hooper was one of four English members of the community allowed to offer their services as Chaplains to the Armed Forces, He was called up in 1939 and attached to a medical unit, seeing service in France and Belgium (escaping via Dunkirk), then with the Eighth Army in the Middle

East, Italy, Greece and Austria. On his return to Buckfast in 1945 he was appointed Novice Master, whose task is to train the aspirants to the monastic life according to the Benedictine Rule as lived at Buckfast. With his interest in the liturgy and his phenomenal memory of Buckfast's history he was well equipped for such a role.

On his election as Abbot in 1957, Hooper realised that, with a community now almost entirely English, it would be easier if the administrative links with the Continent were broken in favour of closer links with the other Benedictine monasteries in England, such as Downthose days of elericalism and tri-side (the senior house), Dom Placid 1929; ordained umphalism in Catholic circles, Ampleforth and Doual. In priest 1935; Abbot of Buckfast

transferred to the English Benedictine Congregation.
Benedictine monasteries m

England have been prominent in the field of Catholic education, and under Hooper's leadership the Buckfast community opened a prep school for boys. The school prospered until changing circumstances brought about its closure in 1994. Buckfast lies between Dartmoor and the "English Riviera"

and receives some 500,000 visitors a year. The abbey is also a parish church. To avoid clashes between groups of visitors and parish services Hooper launched the building of a Blessed Sacrament chapel at the east end of the church, cut off from the main body by a glass partition. Thus services can be held without interference from

Placid Hooper's term of of-fice ended in 1976. He spent the next 18 years welcoming the many visitors to Buckfast and as a guide to the abbey church. On 8 December he celebrated the diamond jubilee of his priesthood. Three days later he died. Leo Smith OSB

Thomas Hooper, priest: born 17 1957-76; died 11 December 1995.



Brockless: music at Smithfield

Brian Brockless, conductor, composer, organist and educator, born 21 January 1926; married 1950 Muriel Jones (one son; marriage dissolved), 1976 Jenuifer

Urquhart Fred Urquhart was a short-

Fred

story writer. That was his raison-d'être. So are VS. Princhert and William Trevor. At his frequent best, Urquhart is of their quality. In the 1960s Rupert Hart-Davis began to publish his Collected Stories (it could have run to a dozen volumes), but the venture petered out after publication of the first two, The Dy-ing Stallion (1967) and The Ploughing Match (1968). Urquhart relished writing

about country matters. Although born in Edinburgh, the son of a chauffeur, he spent much of his childhood in Fife, Perthshire and Wigtownshire. growing up reading books (he later worked in a bookshop). As a pacifist and conscientious objector, he worked on the land during the Second World War. This experience resulted in many of his finest stories, about rural life, set in and around the (fictional) town of Auchencairn. These stories have a classic simplicity in which Urquhart employs north-east Scots dialect with a precise, acerbic and lovng ear. He was never a writer to use a four-syllable word if one of one or two syllables would suffice. His stories are, in a way. the verbal equivalent of C.F. Turmicliffe's graphic art.

He was particularly understanding of horses, and edited a lavishly illustrated up-market anthology, The Book of Horses (1981). It didn't do well, presumably because "horsy" peoole aren't much interested in iterature and art.

In story after story, Urquhart empathised with the worldweary and useful lives of horses. Without anthropomorphising the beasts, he flatters readers they can feel something of what it's like to be a horse, to possess its anatomy, experi-

ence its sweat and its breath. Urquhart's was indeed the art of the short-story writer, the deivery of short (he'd have said "wee") epiphanies. To call his craft poetry in prose is to pa-tronise the uniqueness of the short-story form. Uronbart was compassionate with what used to be called the underprivileged, the working class. He especially enjoyed writing about women whose lives both fascinated and, as so often with homosexual writers, appalled him.

He published eight of nine collections of stories, the best

regarded being Jezebel's Dust (1951), but Urquhart couldn't much be bothered with the inhe a "modernist". His skill was to show characters in everyday, conversational action. In 1958 he and his friend Pe-

ter Wyndham Allen, a ballet dancer; moved from Scotland to the Ashdown Forest in Sussex. Urquhart not returning to live in Scotland until 1990 after Allen had died. In his 30-odd years living in a somewhat middle-class milieu in lush southern England, the erstwhile working-class lad from north of the Border lost much of his feel and ear for the minute accuracy of contempo-rary Scottish life. The stories of his later, rather bitter and isolated years - correctly he felt unappreciated by the present Scottish literary establishment - owed more to the kailyard than he cared to acknowledge. Giles Gordon

Frederick Burrows Urquhart, writer born Edinburgh 12 July 1912; died Musselburgh 2

. . . .

Brian Brockless

A fine choral and orchestral al College of Music, There, the conductor, gifted technically in his ability to convey by gesture alone a clarity of performance seen at its strongest in his Engpurpose. Brian Brockless will be lish Elegy for String Orchestra, remembered for his work with many orchestras in Britain and abroad and for his long tenure, from 1961 to 1971 and from 1979 until his death, as Director of Music at St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, in London, Mark Brown of Pro Cantione Antiqua calls him ~a leading light in the renaissance Dykes Bower and accompaniof Renaissance music".

The nephew of George Brockless (Head of Music at Battersea Polytechnic i, he was educated at the Stationers' Company School and the Roy-

great influence was his composition teacher, Herbert Howells. dedicated to Howells and originally the slow movement of the quartet written for his BMus examination. Although his own compositions show many more influences, the principal lesson that he learnt from Howells was "how to live".

He studied organ with John ment with Hubert Dawkes. He pursued composition studies with Matvas Seiber. He openly acknowledged his debt to his conducting mentor, Sergiu Celibadache, with whom he stud-

in Siena from 1960 to 1963, and later in Bologna, winning the 1963 conducting prize. As his assistant he worked with Celibadache throughout Europe and appeared as guest conductor in Romania, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Venezuela. His own career included concerts with the English Chamber Orchestra. Royal Philbarmonic Orchestra and Northern Sinfonia, and the musical directorship of the London Schubert Orchestra. He made many broadcasts and pioneered the presentation of choral music on the then new ITV with the series A Date with Music.

Brockless was well grounded

ied at the Accademia Musicale in the repertoire from an early appointment as Organist of St Mary, Aldermary, in London. and as deputy at the Savoy Chapel. His understanding of choral music came from his own skills as a singer. He deployed his counter-tenor voice as a soloist with his sister Pauline in Wigmore Hall recitals, as a choir member of the Savoy Chapel. of Henry Washington's Schola Polyphonica and the Elizabethan Singers. He directed the choir and orchestra at Goldsmiths' College and founded the Priory Festival Choir. In addition to his choir at Smithfield, he founded the St Bartholomew Singers (now the Pro Cantione Antiqua).

A superb teacher, Brockless was Professor of Harmony and Orchestration at the Royal Academy of Music for two decades and ran a conducting class at Morley College. From the 1950s he worked with his uncle at Battersea Polytechnic; when it became the University of Surrey in 1967 he became its first Musical Director. His greatest achievement in education, as Senior Lecturer, was the design of the university's music degree course, innovative and influential in being the first to acknowledge the importance of the recording industry by the inclusion of the Tonneister course.

He left a small but fine lega-

cy of compositions. A technically demanding Introduction, Passacaglia and Coda was written for Francis Jackson for the. 900th anniversary celebrations of Westminster Abbey in 1966. Few recordings exist of his music, though he himself recorded this work in a 1983 collection of English church music with his own church choir. Other recently reissued organ compositions include Prelude, Toccatand Chaconne, the Fantasia. Adagio and Fugue written for the 1969 Cheltenham Festival, a Toccating, and Toccata for an Occasion commissioned

for the Peterborough Organ Wright (one son); died Ripley 18 Richard Williams December 1995. December 1995. No nonsense from sects or atheists

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

GUMPERT: On 17 December, to Dorothec (nee Fabers) and Ben-jamin, a son, Frederick John. RENSMANN / LAWRANCE: On Christmas Eve 1995, in Bonn, to Helen and Thilo, a son, Charles Lawrance, a brother for Edward and

DEATHS

GUMAEL: H. Edward, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather, peacefully at home on 23 December, Funeral at St Martin's Church, East Horsley, at 1 flam, Saturday 3t December, No flowers please. MEADE: James Edward. On 22 De-cember, peacefully at his home in Li-tte Shelford, aged 88. Emeritus Professor of Political Economy in Cambridge University.

Announcements for Gazette AIRTHS, MARRIAGES & BEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charmed of 65 50 n line (VAT extra). or lated to 0171-230 2010, and are charged at 56,50 m line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices functions, Fortheoming marriages, Marriages) most be submitted in writing for faced and are charged at \$10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime analysis a marriage.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment maunts the Oueen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham: Ist Battalion Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at anchingham Palace. 11 Mam. hand

Birthdays

Mr Intikhab Alam, former Pakistan cricketer, 54; Mr Lew Ayres, actor, 87. Mr Terry Butcher, tootballer, 37; Mr William Camps, former Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, 85; Mr Donald Carr, cricketer, 69; Sir El-lis Clarke, former President, Trinidad and Tohago, 78: Major Madeleine Craggs, Secretary, torperial Concer Grages. Secretary, Imperial Cancer Research Fund. 50; Mr Thomas Grould VC. 81; Mr Max Hastings, Ed-itor, the London Evening Standard, 50; Mr Roy Hanersley MP, 63; Mr Noel Johason, actor, 79; Mr Nigel Kennedy, violinist, 39; Mrs Frances Morrell, former leader, ILEA, 58; Sir Patrick O'Connor, former Lord Jus-tice of Appeal 81: Mrs Bridget Prentice MP, 43: Mr Simon Raven, author and playwright, 68: Mrs Joan Ruddock MP, 52: Dame Maggie Smith. actress, 61: The Right Rev William Westwood, former Bishop of Peterborough. 76: The Hon Geoffrey Wilson, former chairman. Delta plc,

Anniversaries

Births: Wenzel Robert. Count von Gallenberg, composer, 1783; Sir John Bennet Lawes, agriculturist, 1814; Sir Archibald Geikie, geologist, 1825. 1835: Thomas Woodrow Wilson. 28th US President. 1856: Sir John William Fortescue, military histori-an, 1859: Philip Wilson Steer, artist. 1860: Pio Baroja Nessi, novelist, 1872: Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, astronomer, 1882: Si John Greer Ervine, playwright and drama critic, 1883; Roger Huntington Sessions, composer, 1896; Eart Fatha Hines, jazz pianisi, 1915. Deaths: Si Francis de Sales, 1622: Laurent de Lahire. painter. 1656: Pierre Bayle, philosopher and writer, 1706; Rob Roy (Robert Macgregor), clan chief. 1734; Emmerich de Vattel, diplomat and jurist, 1767; John Campbell, historian, 1775; Thomas Babington

Macaulay, first Baron Macaulay. poet and historian, 1859; Thomas Creswick, painter, 1869; Alfred Cellier. composer, 1891; George Robert Gissing, novelist, 1903; Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, engineer, 1923; Mau-rice Joseph Ravel, composer, 1937; Theodore Herman Albert Dreiser, novelist, 1945; Victor Emmanuet III, former King of Italy, 1947; Jack Lovelock, athlete and surgeon, killed 1949; Paul Hindemith, composer, 1963; Max (Maximilian) Raoul Stein-er, film music composer, 1971; Sam Peckinpah, film director. 1984. On this day: Westminster Abbey was dedicated, 1065; Spain recognised the independence of Mexico, 1836; the first US patent for chewing gum was issued, 1869; the centre portion of the Tay Bridge in Scotland collapsed, taking with it a train including 75 passengers and crew, 1879; the world's seagers and crew, 1879; the world's

first public film show took place in Paris, 1895; Messina, Sicily, was almost completely destroyed by an earthquake and over 150,000 lives were lost, 1908; the independence of Estonia was proclaimed, 1917; the trish Free State became the Repubirish Free State became the Repub-lic of Ireland, 1937; Achmad Sukarno was elected president of the In-donesian Republic, 1949; an earth-quoke in Pakistan killed more than 4,000 people, 1975. Today is the Feast Day of St Antony of Lerins, The Holy innocents (Childermas) and Si

Royal Aeronautical

Society The following have been elected to Fellowship of the Royal Aeronautical Society: cal Society:

Prince Fatual Bin Abdullah: Wing Cdr John
Michael Akorde. Norman William Angel;
Michael Bagshaw: John William Cottrell
Baler; Oliver I. Boden; Oliver C. Botleau;
Marin Theon Broadburst; Frederic Austin
Burke; Theon Herbert Bush: Gp Capt Edward
Reginald Cor. Air Commodere Donal Cyril
Courents: Theore Redney Crabines: Bernard
Dufour; Capt John Stephen Fairey; Muchael

John Gerald Fariam; Air Cemmodore Hamid Farcog, John Ferne; Air Commodore Richard Michael Stewart Fitzgerald-Lomburd; Colin Michael Foale; Michael Jams Foate, Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden; Philip Nerman Goddurd; Ian Adam Godden; Johan Alexan-der Goddurd; Air Commodore David William Groddurd Las Adam Goolden; Johan Alexander Gordon; Air Commodors Darrd William Hill: Anthory John Himes; Dan Nung Ing, Air Chief Marshal Muhammad Abbas Khartak: Capt Peter Jounthan Köhner, Robert Ashworth Nigore; Devid G. Kadodiej; Junes Kriek, Professor Brian Edward Laurder; Repmond Norman Lee; David Albert John Martan: Paid Edwards Mapus; James Cameton McKenna; Barry Mollers; Gp Capt Peter John Moore; Martin H. Moniuc Chaffe Allen Parlier; Colun Richardson Petnny; Noel Petter, David Brian Priddy; Frank Surgenor Reford; Heben Patrics, Sharman; James Schart Smith; Adv Vice-Marshal Peter Tod Squire; Marwell Brooke Stevens; Roger Hill Warren.

Institute of Mathematics The following have been elected to Fellowship of the Institute of Math-ematics and granted Chartered Mathematicion status:

Mathematicion status:
Professor Z.U., Abrund, Mr.N., Block, Dr.J.S.,
Brandey, Mr.A.A.S., Bryanet, Dr.N.R., Burhe;
Dr.K., Chen; Dr.A., Caenke, Mr.M.G.F., Danbey, Mr.C.N., Deam: Mr.J.G., Dowley, Mr.D.J.,
Foulkmert, Dr. P.L., Galbraitht, Mr.R.J., Hamilton: Mr.T., Harker, Mr.R.P., Harrisons, Dr. B.,
Haddon; Dr.J.M., Hurst, Dr. L. Labouatt, Dr. B.J.,
Kelmanson, Dr.C.J., Lawtener, Mr.G.D., Lidtell, Mr.A.J., Munikey, Dr.R.G., Mydlff, Mr.V.A.,
Petre, Dr. O.J., Rider, Dr. A.J., Robung, Dr.S.C.,
Ryne; Dr. H.B., Saide, Mr.O.S., Smarte, Mr.A.,
Stottle, Mr.J. M. Thompson; Dr.S.P. TownsondMr.J. M. Thompson; Dr.S.P. TownsondMr.J. E., Warren.

Mr Noel Joseph Terence Mont-gomety Needham, the scientist, Si-nologist, and Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, left estate valued at £871,856 net. He left railed at 2011,000 Bef. He left \$5,000 to Gonville and Caius College for two annual prizes, and the greater part of the residue to the Lu Gwei-Dien Memorial Charitable Trust and to the East Asian History of Science Trust (Needham Research In-stitute) for the completion and updating of his work Science and Civilisation in China.

Christmas is a rotten time to be an atheist: but then atheists embrace such a bleak view of life (in my experience) that perhaps they do not care for the "sentimentality" of Christmas anyhow. They are also so literal-minded, with their "but is it true?" of the whole epic of Christianity, rather than accepting that this is where we dwell in the spirit, which is manifest in human beings, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen. Atheism is also curiously unpragmatic, by the way: there is no society in which it has ever worked

So pity the high-minded atheist (or particularly scrupulous agnostic) parent at this time, who frets about the question of whether his child may be allowed to take part in the school Nativity play, on the Gradgrind grounds, that this is a purely fanciful view of the universe, and it is absurd to let children get themselves up as

angels.
How long does the shade of Edmund Gosse linger, who being from a fundamentalist Protestant sect was not permitted to celebrate Christmas, and was made to confess when he tasted mince-pies that he had partaken of the food of idolaters. Actually. I know some very nice fundamentalist Protestants, but I am not taking any nonsense about not celebrating Christmas because it has been turned into a pagan fertility rite, any more than I am taking the Politically Correct line that it is not sufficiently "multi-cultural". Christmas is supposed to be edectic, to embrace what was in the pagan, too, just as Christianity has embraced what was in our Greek,

Roman and Jewish heritage. Anyway, anyone who has ever had a litMeanings of Christmas

To experience Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve is pure joy, declares Mary Kenny, who offers bracing advice for the Politically Correct and the imaginatively challenged.

knows that the Nativity story is the most superbly multi-cultural event you could devise: the Three Kings are traditionally represented as being from different races, the angels look perfect if exquisite little Japanese children, and Jesus, Joseph and Mary are a Semitic family – Joseph can be pisyed as an Arafat kookalike, and Mary must be the Jewish mother of all Jewish mothers. It can thus be a Middle East peace parable.
The Nativity story also works very well

as a sort of left-wing, or anti-capitalist, parable (for bleak atheists looking for an excuse to enjoy it). In fact, as a counterpoint to greed and the excesses of materialism, I think this aspect is important. "I went to Harrods the other day," a col-league told me, "and it was fabulous. It was everything that Christmas is about, money, money, money." It is precisely at this point that one needs a Nativity story to transmit to children the idea that tle blub at a children's Nativity play flashy toys and monied presents aren't.

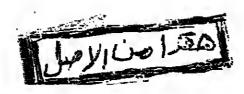
everything: that Jesus was born poor and bomeless and that Mary was to all ments and purposes an unmarried mother, and that life works sometimes by paradox.

The carois get over this point very well, and hearing a five-year-old lisp "Away in a Manger" anyhow knocks Traviata expiring at Covent Garden into a cocked hat. Once in Royal David's City is a burndinger of a carol for illustrating this miraculous counterpoint between the haves and have-nots. He came down on earth from heaven, / Who is God and Lord of All. / And his shelter was a stable / And his cradle was a stall; / With the poor, and mean, and lowly, / Lived on earth our

Saviour holy."

You don't have to be a Christian, or even a believer, to see that the Nativity story is something wonderful which celebrates life, and helps us share and experience a great story which can be taken at many different levels. The babe in a manger is linked with Original Sin, that useful, pre-Rousseauesque doctrine which reminds us of the flawed nature that is ours. But there is also a feminist interpretation of the way that it "empowers" the unique creative gifts of woman as mother, and puts her at the centre of the narrative. For those of us who are believers, it is

simply a great truth, but it can be extended to unbelievers as a great metaphor, a great symbolic idea and a great story, Literalminded atheists or scrupulous agnostics should not deprive themselves of pleasure and emotional intensity by not subscrib-ing to its beauty: but if they do not share in it, we can honestly say it is their loss. To experience Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, in celebration of the Nativity of Christ, is to know joy.



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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

Economics: Tokyo reports rising output and investment, but US sees new fall in consumer confidence

Japan heads for new year recovery

DIANE COYLE **Economics Correspondent**

Early signs of recovery in the Japanese economy helped the Nikkel share price index climb above 20,000 yesterday for the first time in more than a year.

of economic slowdown in the US took Treasury bond prices to their bighest for more than two years. The yield on the benchmark long-term bond had falten to 6 per cent by midday.

US share prices also moved up, helping equities in London to close just helow their record levels. The FT-SE 100 index ended just over 18 points higher

PETER RODGERS

A windfall of more than £200m

was revealed yesterday by the 12

regional electricity companies.

which have been paid far more

for their pumped storage pow-

er generating husiness than

they expected five weeks ago. First Hydro, the Snowdonia

power generator which the Rees

owned, was sold to the US

company Mission Energy for

£o80m, including eash balances of £27.5m. The Rees that are still quot-

ed on the stock market said they

were keeping the money for use in their businesses and not

The amounts raised range

from £36.7m at South Wales

Electricity and £44m at North-

em Electric to £71m at London

Electricity and £74.5m at South-

ern, which has the biggest stake.

The sale gave a modest boost

er stations put up for sale by Na-

tional Power, the biggest generator in Britain. If it suc-

ceeds in the second deal it

would become Britain's fourth

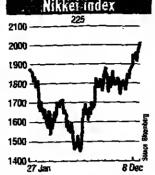
tion to huy First Hydro from that gains bill for the Recs.

largest electricity generator. Mission beat off competi-

to most Rec share prices.

passing it to shareholders.

Business Editor



index against a range of cur-rencies rose 0.6 to 83.6. Traders said that a single hig purchase of sterling in the Far East in very thin holiday trade accounted for

Japan's industrial output rose unexpectedly sharply in November, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry said it expected production to climb in December and January too. The 1.3 per cent gain last month was the second increase in a row, after months of declining production.

The leading indicator for the Japanese economy rose above 50, the dividing line between recovery and recession, for the first time in October, according

to figures released by the Eco-nomic Planning Agency. Al-though the EPA warned that it was too carly to be sure of a clear upward trend in the econ-omy, the figures boosted opti-

mism about corporate earnings.
The Nikkei 225 share price index closed up more than 107 points at 20,011.76, the highest since October 1994. Technology and electronics stocks led the advance. Yesterday's optimism was a contrast to earlier gloom about Japan's prospects for emerging from its economic slump. Economists steadily revised down their forecasts for

growth throughout 1995. "There is certainly a more upbeat mood now. This year is

ending on a strong note," said Stephen Hannah, head of re-search at IBJ International. Hannah Nixon, an econoist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "The figures signal the

turning point for the economy. There should be a gradual re-covery in 1996." Officials at Miti said that output was growing faster than forecast. The electronics and telecommunications sectors were likely to spearhead growth, and investment spend-

ing was on the increase. Construction orders last month were 10.4 per cent lower than a year earlier, but the industry is expected to start to recover. New housing starts rose

0.1 per cent in the year to November, the first increase for nine months. The auto industry remained weak, however.

Finance minister Masayoshi Takemura said: "I hope that the economy will be able to regain a 2 to 3 per cent level of growth." The reversal since April of the yen's earlier surge against the dollar - thanks to intervention by the Group of Seven industrial countries -

had contributed to the recovery. At IBJ, Mr Hannah said there was still great uncertainty about the state of the financial sector hanging over the economy. Banks would have to write off substantial debts during the first quarter of 1996. The

rising trend in unemployment
-which reached 3.4 per cent last month - would make conumers cautions about spending

US statistics yesterday added to the evidence that growth is slowing. Consumer confidence fell in December, according to a survey by the Conference Board: Sales of existing homes fell 1.7 per cent in November, although

they remained 9.5 per cent higher than a year earlier. Form-omists said this was a sign of slower economic growth, but falling mortgage rates would un-derpin the housing market. Official US statistics have been delayed by the continuing

takeover rumours intensify

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

a rights issue to help finance its £1.05bn offer for Forte's restau-rant business. But speculation was growing that the brewing and food retailing giant was poised to knuch a separate hid soon for Carlsberg Tetley, in a deal that could lead to a cash call on shareholders.

- Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread, the UK's fourthbiggest brewer, said: "We are very interested in strengthening this part of our business [brew-ing]. If I could find anything half as good as Boddingtons, I'd of course be interested."

The company bought Bod-dington's brewing operations in 1989. A purchase of Carlsberg Telley could make Whitbrea the largest brewer in the country, toppling Scottish & New-castle Breweries, which recently bought Courage for £435m to move into pole position. Meanwhile, Granada was last

night under pressure to raise its £3.2bn bid for Forte or to give up City sinfishesid Kleinwood Benson suggested the offer might have to be raised by 15 per cent to ensure success Granada has until 9 January to increase its bid.

A Granada misider said: We've got plenty of room in terms of borrowing power, and banks have backed us without hesitation." But the company officially declined to comment on its intentions, saying only that the Whitbread offer undervalned the restaurant assets.

Geory Robinson, chief executive of Granada, said the sale was "a brilliant deal from the point of view of Whithread but not in the best interests of Forte shareholders. He claimed that Granada's offer valued the restaurant holdings at a higher price-carnings multiple than the Whithread offer, although Forte disputed this.

Forte said the deal, which would reduce debt by 80 per holders, and hinted that a special dividend might be on offer when the final defence document is published on 2 January. The company is also expected to announce a new valuation for its hotels operations.

Across the Pacific, new signs The pound climbed sharply against the dollar yesterday. It closed nearly 2 cents higher at

\$1.5602, and also rose more than a pfennig to DM2.2330. Its

Scottish Hydro, the north of Scotland electricity generator, which is thought to have offered

nearly £200m less. The other

Energy, a US company.

ity of British power prices.

First Hydro becomes highly

profitable when electricity mar-ket prices soar. However, Mis-

tional Grid prospectus pub-

£200m First Hydro windfall for Recs

National Grid had previous

ahead of its own flotation de-

merged the business into a sep-

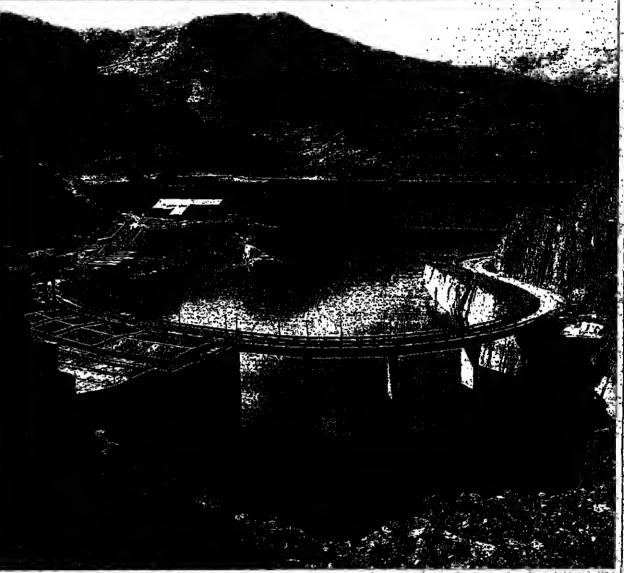
owned First Hydro, but just

arate company owned by the 12 failed hid was from Dominion The Recs' advisers believe the The Rees that are still indecold snap just before Christmas. pendent have passed the value when prices soared in the elecof their National Grid shares ditricity market, helped them rect to their own shareholders, gain a high price for First Hybut said yesterday they would dro, by underlining the volatilkeep all the cash from the First

Hydro sale to use in their own The business makes its mon-In the competition to buy the cy hy using cheap off-peak electricity to pump water to high National Power stations, with generating capacity of 4,000 level reservoirs at Dinorwic and Blacnau-Ffestiniog in megawalts, Mission is compet-Snowdonia, When demand for ing against Enron, Applied electricity is high, the water is Power Systems and Hanson's run down the mountains to low electricity distribution subsidiary, Eastern Group, level reservoirs where it generares electricity again. It is the na-National Power confirmed Miselectricity grid's sion was still in the running and equivalent of a storage battery

said bids were being evaluated. Mission is part of SCEcorp, a \$6bn (£4bn) US utility whose subsidiaries include Southern California Edison, one of the biggest generators in the US.

Mission is one of four bidders sion has also indicated that a high bid possible. The sale price is more than tightly controlled and unexciting, the group has joined the as-£200m above the £450m value sault by US utilities on foreign put on the business in the Napower markets. It has recently invested \$250m in Indonesia lished on 21 November, and will and is involved in two small gas lead to a substantial extra cappower stations, Roosecote and



Dinorwic: the pumped storage operation in Snowdonia is the nearest thing to a battery in the national electricity grid

Greedy eyes focus on £20bn Tessa bonanza

CLIFFORD GERMAN

Tour operators whose 1996 holiday brochures traditionally appear hetween Christmas and New Year, are greedily eveing the £20bn wall of money that will pour out of tax-exempt special savings accounts - Tessas - that mature in the next six

At least £5hn will be tax-free interest which cannot he reinvested in a new Tessa, and tour operators are hoping the mainly middle-aged savers will splash out on a luxury cruise when their nest-eggs hatch.

Car dealers and department

Top Tessas - variable rate tax free accounts 1991-96 Top Tiddlers Top Building Societies Kent Refiance £12,400 Bradford & Bingley HR £12.093 £12,058 Royal Bank of Scot €12,343 Dertyshire National Counties £12,050 £12,317 Abbey National J Hodge Bank **Errstol & West Borgs** £12.019 £12,226

will treat themselves and spend some of the proceeds. Managers of unit trusts, investment trusts. personal equity plans, corporate bond PEPs, guaranteed income bonds and guaranteed stock market honds are also hoping to tempt investors with maturing Tessas to look for higher

£12,221

Melton Mowbray

£12,011 Weatwich Assumes maximum investment at launch and maximum top-ups on each anniversary rently offer. About 2 million people hold Tessa accounts, posal. most taken out in 1991 when interest rates as high as 13 per

cent were on offer. Most have variable rate accounts on which returns have now halved. Many will have saved the maximum of £9,000 stores are also praying savers rates of return than Tessas cur- and will have around £3,000 of

£11.094 £t1.870 211,829 NatWest £11.560 £11,533 Source: Maneyfacts

tax-free interest at their dis-But banks and huilding societies that offer Tessa accounts will not give up without a fight. Yesterday alone three more providers announced terms to try to persuade account-holders

to roll their savings over rather

than withdraw them.

Halifax Building Society is guaranteeing a fixed rate of 7 per cent for the next five years for Tessa holders who have a maximum £9,000 in a maturing Tessa and reinvest before the end of January. A variable rate alternative will be offered starting at 5.9 per cent.

Northern Rock is topping the Halifax offer with a starting rate of 8 per cent for a £9,000 investment on its next generation of variable-rate Tessas.

Birminghan Midshires announced seven new Tessas, including an escalating rate Tessa starting at 6.25 per cent in the first year, rising to 9 per cent in year five.

Taylor Woodrow lands £133m Russian rail deal

RUSSELL HOTTEN London PHIL REEVES

Taylor Woodrow, the UK construction group, has won a contract to build a railway terminal complex in St Petersburg, the company's biggest contract in the former Soviet Union.

The \$200m (£133m) deal is part of a massive project for a high-speed rail line between the city and the Russian capital, Moscow, that will cost hetween

£3bn and £5bn. The railway line is one of Russia's largest infrastructure ven-tures and has huge symbolic a hotel, shops and offices. The for BAT, and it has built two significance because it unites the wo historic cities with a non-

stop service. Sketchy details of the contract were announced by the public/private transport group, RAO-VSM, in Russia on

Christmas Day. Taylor Woodrow was yesterday still unclear ahout aspects of the project. No state finance is being provided, and RAO-VSM will

When the rail line is finished it will mean that the 645km journey, often involving European mil services, an overnight trip, will be cut to Taylor Woodrow has b 2.5 hours, offering travelling crating in Russia for al times normally associated with

Taylor Woodrow, whose costs

Department, said there was no

estion of starting work before.

complex is understood to have been designed by Hok Inter-national, the London archi-tects A further 10 rail stations had never experienced any

ing are completed next year. though contracts have not been placed, as large-scale works to are being underwritten by the clear explosives left from World UK's Export Credit Guarantee War II have to be carried out before construction can start.

It is hoped that by upgrading and standardising Russian rail lines they will eventually be linked to the expanding west Taylor Woodrow has been op-

crating in Russia for about 10 years, and is regarded by the Moscow authorities as one of Japanese high speed links. Moscow authorities as one of laylor. Woodrow is teaming the most highly-rated Western up with a Finnish construction construction from doing busicompany, Skanska Oy, to build ness in the country. Current prothe terminal in the centre of St. jects include building and refurbishing a cigarette factory fast-food Pizza Hut restaurants

are to be built along the route, problems with corruption.

Now Asda plans own brands in vitamin price war The price maintenance

NIGEL COPE

Boots the Chemist and other pharmacy groups were refusing to be drawn into a price war yes-terday following a fresh challenge from Asda on the price of vitamins and minerals.

Asda is planning to launch an extended range of own label medicines in the Spring. The range will increase from 17 to more than 50 products. It will

also include own label versions of Seven Seas and Sanatogen, two of the vitamin hrands included in Asda's initial challenge to the price maintenance agreement on non-prescription drugs in October. The prices are expected to be more than 15 per cent below those of branded

Boots said yesterday that it would continue to support price maintenance on medicines. It

products.

STOCK MARKETS

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Source: FT Information

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also said that it had cut prices via a three-for-the-price-of-two campaign on the Boots brand

Other retailers were refusing to say how they might react to Asda's latest initiative. Superdrug said it already had a lower priced range of own label oducts but would be "keeping an eye" on the situation. Sainsbury said Asda was simply copying other supermarket

<u>531</u>

0.53

5.38

3.69 6.05

groups in the move towards more own label products which attract a higher margin. Around two thirds of Sainsbury's sales are own label compared to just

34 per cent at Asda. The City appeared unmoved by Asda's challenge. Asda's share price remained un-changed at 110.5p while Boots and Kinglisber, which owns the Superdrug chain, registered marginal declines.

7.58

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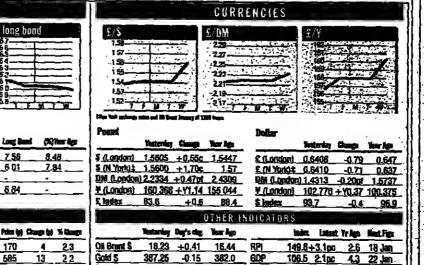
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INTEREST RATES

agreement covering over-the-counter medicines has stood for 25 years but is now the subject of an Office of Fair Trading review after Asda's campaign. Asda started its campaign by cutting the prices of around 80

vitamins and minerals by up to 20 per cent. But it ran into trouwhen manufacturers successfully applied for an injunction.

not give the go-ahead for huilding work until negotiations with stern banks about fund-rais-



248.15 -3.49 246.991 Base Rates - 6.50pc 5.25

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MORTGAGE CUSTOMERS

Interest Rate Change

The rates of interest for existing mortgage customers (in appropriate cases the basic rate) will decrease by 0.25%. with effect from the 5th January 1996, and by a further 0.25% with effect from the 1st February 1996. Fixed rate mortgages are not affected during the contractual fixed rate period. -

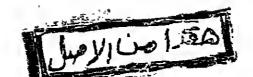
In cases where mortgage interest rate changes are subject to notice, the decreases will take place after the appropriate: notice periods which will commence on 5th January 1996, and 1st February 1996 respectively.

There will be no change to the interest rates on existing Secured Personal Locus regulated by the Consumer Coedic Act 1974. For customers participating in the Society's annual review procedure, these interest tate decreases will be taken into count when calculating new monthly payments from March 1996 or, in appropriate cases, the anniversary of the



0.19

Germany 4.06



business



Tal

Granada must stop tweaking and start bidding

'If Forte shareholders extract too high a price, there will be nothing left for Mr Robinson and the deal becomes.

pointless'

The time is approaching for big decisions at Granada. Tweaking the £3.2bn hid for Forte no longer looks enough to do the trick. A very substantial increase in the offer, possibly as much as 15 per cent, may be the only way forward and even then the uplift is going to have to be substantially in cash. More paper and the law of diminishing returns begins to set in - the increased value of the offer may be wiped out by a falling share price. The main planks of Forte's defence are

now in the public arena. The only thing that remains is a full-blown property revaluation, which we are promised with the final defence circular on 2 January. Here, Sir Rocco Forte has to watch his step, for too high a valuation could well backtire by demonstrating the lamentably small return he has been making on those assets.

So far, Forte seems to have had the better of the war, despite its track record and state of unpreparedness at the start. The sale to Whitbread of the restaurants for £1.05bn falls short of a master-stroke, for it has the smell of a forced sale at a poor price, but it may be enough to make Forte's shareholders hold out for a lot more than the present Granada offer.

The question they have to ask themselves is this. After sale of the restaurants, what are they left with? The immediate pay-back is a special dividend of up to 50p a share. Chastened by the experience of the Granada assault, the rump hotels group presumably also becomes a much better-run company | fully-which is what leaving the present offer

with real value flowing through to shareholders. Presumably is the operative word here, for quite a bit of faith is required to believe this.

The sale to Whitbread is undoubtedly on the cheap side, though it is more than could have been achieved through the previously planned demerger. An exit pie of 17 com-pares poorly with the 23 times earnings that Pelican trades on and the 26 that Pizza Express sells at. Furthermore, Forte has shut the door on an auction by making this a lockout deal, a device which from the seller point of view is always hard to justify. This in itself might give Forte's shareholders pause for thought; has anything really changed at this company?
In a hid that is becoming famous for its

one-liners. Gerry Robinson's, "There has been more innovation at Forte during the course of this bid than in the past 10 years,"

s particularly poignant.

To hand over all that value to Granada, admitedly with an on-going stake in its future since part of the offer is in shares, may look equally unappealing, however. Granada is that most unfashionable of companies, a conglomerate. Doubts about its strategy have considerably damaged Granada's share price since the bid was launched. If Forte shareholders extract too high a price from Granada, there will be nothing left for Mr Robinson and the deal becomes pointless. Granada could probably withdraw graceon the table would amount to-without serious damage to its reputation or that of its chief executive. The bid costs so far. £35m. are a lot to throw down the drain but they are nothing against the likely costs of overpaying. Mr Robinson will wait to see the final defence before making up his mind, but he must already be aware that it's a tough call.

Gates closing on the empire-builders

It looks as though 1996 is set to be another boom year for takeovers with little sign of the present hectic pace of activity ahating. Financial services, pharmaceuticals, brewing and the media should continue to generate a steady flow of mergers and acquisitions.

In part, the motor for the present wave of activity is the prospect of a Labour government. Many chief executives see next year as a last chance for getting the hig, empirehuilding acquisition through the competition authorities - particularly if it involves rationalisation and job losses, as most of them do these days.

As it stands. Labour policy on mergers Mergers Commission virtually any acquisition of size. The onus would then be on the bidder not merely to show that the merger is not against the public interest the present hurden of proof) hut to demonstrate that positive henciits would flow from it, too. i necessarily something that should be encour- had better move fast: the gates are closing.

It seems doubtful that such a policy would survive the transition from opposition into government. For a start, it would put policy in Britain at odds with that of Europe. where the need is to show only that a merger above a certain size does not harm competition. Demonstrating future henefit would also he a highly subjective thing, making merger decisioos the object of whim and

Nonetheless, a much tougher stance on takenvers and mergers seems highly likely. It may well he that the present Government pre-empts Labour by altering its stance ahead of the election. There are, after all, few votes in allowing through hig joh-shedding mergers without any kind of independent investigation.

Already there are straws in the wind. The two generator hids for electricity distribution companies would almost certainly have scaped without reference under Michael Heseltine.

The "anything goes" policy in operation when he was President of the Board of Trade in any case looks to have been a flawed one. What little academic research has been done on these matters indicates that very few would be to refer to the Monopolies and I mergers yield much long-term benefit, either to shareholders in the hidding company or more generally.

Nor is the creation of yet larger and larger "national champions", some of them with near-monopolies of their domestic markets. aged. In an increasingly global, cost-con-scious and competitive economy, the hig-isbeautiful corporate philosophy has enjoyed a new lease of life.

Yet the fact remains that it never seems to have done Britain any good. A higher proportion of GDP is already accounted for in Britain by large companies than almost any other developed economy. It is in the small to medium-sized sectors that Britain is weakest. This is where more successful economies such as Germany and Japan have outclassed us. Britain has its fair share of world-class" companies, but in the second and third tiers down, the companies that aspire to world class, Britain's showing is poor. This may have something to do with the takeover culture that rules here.

In Britain the entrepreneurial dream is to make your pile as rapidly as possible, sell up and retire to the country with the Lahradors. Not so in Germany where companies are much more commonly kept in the family and passed from one generation to the next.

For the time being the takeover culture. deliberately encouraged by Government policy and the City, remains supreme. But things are changing, not just among policymakers, hut among long-term institutional shareholders, too.

Many of them are a good deal more sceptical about the supposed benefits of mergers than they were. Those who want to take advantage of the present liberal environment

Banking shake-up: Tugwell negotiates £1m-plus package as head of newly merged American operation

Top Natwest director quits for US job

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

John Tugwell, NatWest's £1.4m a year highest-paid director, has resigned to join the company that is buying the British bank's New Jersey subsidiary.

He is negotiating a £1mplus a year package to be chairman and chief executive of Fleet National Bank of New

Mr Tugwell has been NatWest's best-paid executive for several years, and his three year rolling contract with Bancorp could have netted him a huge pay-off if he had left.

But staying on as chairman and chief executive of the newly-merged operation is expected to be a lucrative career that far exceeded the remnmove for a banker who nar-neration of directors who

rowly lost to Derek Wanless three years ago in the race to become chief executive of the whole NatWest Group.

The Bancorp acquisition means that Fleet will double in size to become America's tenth largest bank. The £2bn transaction is scheduled to be completed by May, and Mr Tugwell is understood to be negotiating a new contract.

According to NatWest sources yesterday, Mr Tugwell always said that he would stay with Bancorp when he left London to turn around what was then an ailing subsidiary at the start of the 1990s.

His success in pulling Nat West out of the mire in the US has brought him rewards



John Tugwell: Highest-paid director at NatWest

stayed behind in London in ostensibly more senior roles in the group. The apparent career setback brought Mr Tugwell a equivalents, and he has done far beller than Mr Wanless in remuneration terms, In 1994, for instance. Mr Tugwell received a total of nearly £2m - while Mr Wanless managed roughly a quarter of that.

NatWest hegan its ill-fated expansion into US retail banking in 1979, but by 1991 Ban-corp had accumulated \$1bn of losses on property loans. By 1992 Mr Tugwell had returned the bank to profit, and then added two acquisitions.

The merger mania which seized American retail banking last year following cross-state deregulation posed a dilemma for Nat West: to spend heavily and expand, or to sell up. The bank confirmed last September

salary measured against his that it had chosen the latter. £1hn of capital, It is keen to US rather than UK banking course, not least because of expand in investment hanking soaring US bank stock prices. and fund management. In this and analysis expected the price to be at least two times book value, or over \$4bn.

American accounting rules however meant that the sale of an overseas owned operation forced a write-off of the goodwill, which brought the price down to \$3.16bn.

This was still way ahead of the \$1hn valuation put on Bancorp four years ago, and the City viewed this as testifying to Mr Tugwell's success in reversing its fortunes.

While Mr Tugwell, 54, prepares for a new career as a senior US banker, the NatWest board is pondering how best to spend the proceeds of the Bancorp sale, which will release pansion into non-retail areas. Australia and China hy 1997.

context a whole series of potential candidates have been linked with NatWest including Legal & General. Friends Provident, Mercury Asset Management

Schroders. Natwest has consistently refused to comment on all such market speculation.

However, the bank is not ruling out a 100m share buy back scheme along the lines of a similar one undertaken by Barclays Bank last year.

Some analysts would prefer NatWest to follow this route. seeing UK banks as heavily over-capitalised - and with a

INBRIEF

Russia to start diamond exchange

Russian authorities will launch an exchange in January for uncut and polished diamonds, with De Beers Consolidated Mines under consideration as a possible co-founder, said Ararat Evoyan, the head of the Russian association of diamond producers. Other likely co-founders are the finance ministry and state committee on precious metals. Fresh talks with De Beers will be held carly in the new year.

Two-year dispute ends at Tate & Lyle

A two and a half year union dispute has ended at one of Tale & Lyle's US plants after workers voted to accept the company's contract proposals. The vote ends the lock-out of more than 700 workers at the sugar group's AE Staley plant in Decatur. Illionois. Tate & Lyle now expects work to return to normal by the end of January. The dispute began in 1992 when the company introduced sub-contracting work and 12 hour rotating shifts. Workers then refused to sign individual contracts.

NEC expands mobile phone operations

NEC, the Japanese electronics group, is to expand its UK mobile phone operations, doubling its manufacturing capacity to 100,000 units and taking on another 50 staff at its research and development centre. The move is part of NEC's strategy of localising mobile phone production at its plants in the UK. Mexico.

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by Magnus Grimond

New venture trust is only for the brave

Yorkshire Fund Managers and Equity Veotures of Bristol appear to be putting hope before experience in pushing ahead with plans to raise £15m for the British Smaller Companies VCT, the latest offering in the vecture capital trust stable.

For despite two years of gestation. VCTs have not been the runaway success the Treasury had hoped. Launched by Kenneth Clarke io his first Budget in November 1993, it was hoped VCTs would ease the birth of the enterprise investment scheme, a system of jovestment tax breaks designed to replace the business expansion scheme. But Mr Clarke's hopes the new trusts would channel £2.5hn into small companies

now look sadly misplaced. The latest launch, planned for Fehruary, follows last week's news that Friends Provident had pulled its offering because it could not attract the planned £10m in subscriptions. Even the more successful trusts have not had an easy time. Murray Johnston, which has a strong track record, could raise only £18.4m of the £31.5m originally

intended for its VCT in September. The shares were launched at 100p. hriefly hit a high of 105p, and have now slumped to 93p. Northern Venture Trust, a fund

with a regional flavour run by New-castle-based Northern Venture Managers, had better luck in October, raising most of its planned £15m. But the shares, also placed at 100p, have fared little better than the Murray VCT and oow stand at 95p. It has been a similar story for Baronsmead, which floated its VCT in the same month and has seen the price slide from 100p to 96p.

The prospect of extensive tax only for the brave. breaks has clearly out yet proved of sufficient attraction to the wealthier investors who are the main targets of VCTs. For those with up to £100,000 to put at risk for five years, the trusts offer income tax relief at 20 per cent on the initial investment, the ability to defer tax on Russia remains a hostile environexisting capital gains and a potential stream of tax-free returns from

the underlying investments.

volatile fortunes of smaller companies, many investors will be well aware of that they should be prepared to lose their shirts. Baronsmead and British Smaller Companies will attempt to minimise the risks by investing only in established businesses.

The new trust is offering a yield of 3.2 per cent in its first year, which the company claims is equivalent to a gross return of 16.7 per cent after all tax reliefs. Like others, it is also holding out the prospect of distrib-uting any realised capital gains as taxfree dividends. Even so, this one is

Russia is still hostile

ment for most Western investors. The Russian mafia plays fast and loose with the rules, while the aus-After the had press surrounding terity, poverty and chaotic structures losses from the original BES and the left over from the collapse of the

planned economy all make life dif-ficult for the market economy. experience gained. Pictet has a spe-cialised fund, First Russian Froo-

Outside investors were concerned over the recent parliamentary elec-tions which made the former Communists the biggest single party. Political developments seemed to be behind the recent decision by Stet, the Italian telecommunications company, to pull out of a deal to invest

a new Russian telecom group. Political risks remain. Bot the situation is less dire than two years ago. Inflation has come down this year from 17 per cent a month to less than 5 per cent, and although the Russian stock market has fallen 30 per cent in the past year, there is a oucleus of about 50 stocks which are actively arount 30 stocks which are actively traded. They include Lukoil, an oil company with 15bn barrels of reserves. Unified Energy (utilities), Mosenergo (Moscow power company), GAZ (Gorki cars), Red October (chocolates), and a raft of shipping, paper and consumes companies.

paper and resources companies. A few hardy investors are already operating there, on the grounds that mistakes can be made relatively cheaply, and valuable contacts and

tiers, whose declining share price graphically illustrates the risks.

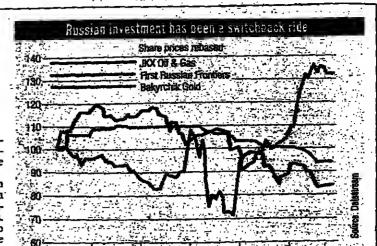
Framlingtoo operates a Russian Investment Fund, which invests in Russian companies already in partnership with western groups. Determined private investors who want a direct punt should also take a look at JKX Oil & Gas, currently looking for oil in the south-west of Russia, and Bakyrchik Gold, which is appraising gold prospects in the central Asian region.

Gem of a year for Goldsmiths

Goldsmiths, the fast expending jewellery chain run by Jurek Piasecki, has been the gem of the sector this year. In April the company announced doubled profits of £3m. New stores, better systems and a couple of small acquisitions have boosted the group, which has been

GROSS RATE OF

INTEREST PAP



well positioned to take advantage of the problems at Signet, the former Ratners business which controls H Samuel and Ernest Jones stores.

trading, rising by 50 per cent this year to 227p, up another 2p yesterday. The good news continued with yesterday's bullish Christmas trading statement. Like-for-like sales terest in buying H Samuel and rose by 8.7 per cent in the month before Christmas, compared with a it has been rebuffed so far. very strong December last year. Sales for the 11 months to December were up by a heady 7.7 per cent. The concession opened in Harrods this year is also trading well.

Goldsmiths built its reputation on watches, which account for around 50 per cent of sales. It has tied up amuel and Ernest Jones stores. distribution agreements with Rolex, The shares have mirrored the Cartier and Gucci, but is now looking to expand its non-watch business.

The plan is to add a further 8 outlets next year to the existing chain of 119. It has also declared its in-

> The company's broker ABN Amro Hoare Govett upgraded its full-year profit forecast to £4.25m yesterday. That puts the shares on a forward rating of 16. About right.

New Savings Rates from the Bristol & West

Effective 28th December 1995 (unless otherwise stated).

trixed with effect from 1st January 1996 until 30th June 1996. tt With effect from 5th January 1996.

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	GROSS EATE OF INTEREST PA* (YARIABLE)	NET PA**
SELECT	£50,000+	3.10%	2.33%
	£25,000+	2.90%	2.18%
	£10.000+	2.40%	1.80%
	£5.000+	2.10%	1.58%
	£2,000+	1.85%	1.39%
	£500+	0.25%	0.19%
	£1+	0.20%	0.15%
An Instant access account for Invest	tors who want a choice of acc	ess options (Rates als	a apply to Bonus

Bond Select and Balanced Bond Select, in addition, also applies to the following accounts which are no longer available: High 3o, Special Edition Bond, Hillfe, Fixed Rate Bond, Secure Investment Bonds Issues 1 & 2, Treble Rate Bond, Overseas 3 Month Capital Account, Overseas Prime Access account (ff), Cheshunt Foreign 90, Cheshunt Instant Access, Cheshunt Foreign Instant, Cheshunt Instant Gross, Cheshunt Charity Instant, Ex Aid to Thrift, Better Option Bond Issues 1 Ano 2, Guaranteed Investment Account Issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14, No 1 Capital (11), Tiered Rate Bond, First Class Bond, 2 Year Premium Share Account, Vantage Bond, No 1 Gross, Triple Bonus (11), Bristol Plus, Moneylink, Snoopy, Guaranteed Equity Bond 3 Year Issue 1, Guaranteed Equity Bond 3 Year Issue 3, Bonus Interest Bond Issue 1 and Capital Maker Bond (††).

Bonus Interest Bond Issue 1 and Capital Mal	ker Bond (††).		
SPECIAL MONTHLY INCOME (11)	£50,000+	3.06%	2.29%
For investors who want monthly income	£25,000+	2.86%	2.15%
and Instant access (Rates also apply to	£10,000+	2,37%	1.78%
High 30 Monthly Income (ff), Cheshunt	£5.000+	2.08%	1.56%
Instant Income (11), Better Option Bond	£2,000+	1.83%	1.38%
Monthly income Issues 1 and 2 (ff),	£500+	0.25%	0.19%
Overseas Monthly Income (ff), No 1	£1+	0.20%	0.15%
Income (11), Triple Bonus Monthly thcome (11) - all no longer available).	2.14	0,20 %	0,134
PREMIER SAVER	£100,000+	5.10%	3.83%
An instant access account for investors	£50,000+	4.95%	3.71%
who limit their access over a 12 month	£25,000+	4.80%	3.60%
period (No withdrawals).	£10,000+	4.50%	3.38%
	£5,000+	4.05%	3.04%
	£2,000+	3.70%	2.78%
	£1,000+	3.55%	2.66%
	£500	2.55%	1.91%
(1-6 Withdrawals)	£100,000+	4.10%	3.08%
	£50,000+	3.95%	2.96%
	£25,000+	3.80%	2.85%
	£10,000+	3.50%	2.63%
	£5,000+	3.05%	2.29%
	£2,000+	2.70%	2.03%
	£1,000+	2.55%	1.91%
	£S00	1.55%	1.16%
(More than 6 Withdrawals)	£100,000+	3.10%	2.33%
	£50,000+	3.10%	2.33%
	£25,000+	2.90%	2.18%
	£10,000+	2.40%	1.80%
	£5,000+	2.10%	1.58%
	£2,000+	1.85%	1.39%
	£1,000+	0.25%	0.19%
	£500	0.25%	0.19%
PREMIER PLUS CAPITAL ISSUE 1	£100,000+	5.40%	4.05%
Three months notice required for	£50,000+	5.30%	3.98%
withdrawal (Rates also apply to	£25,000+	5.05%	3.79%
Guaranteed Investment Account Issue 5	£10,000+ £5.000+	4.50%	3.38%
and Guaranteed Investment Account Extra	£2,000+	3.60% 3.30%	2.70% 2.48%
Issue 1).	£500+	3.25%	2.44%
PREMIER PLUS MONTHLY INCOME	£100,000+	£ 2754	3.00
ISSUE 1 (††)	£50,000+	5.27% 5.18%	3.95% 3.88%
Three months notice required for	£25,000+	4.94%	3.70%
withdrawal, and interest paid monthly.	£10,000+	4.41%	3.31%
Hitharanor one interest para montray.	£5,000+	3.54%	2.66%
	£2,000+	3.25%	2.44%
	£500+	3.20%	2.40%
PREMIER OPTION BOND	E100,000+	6.30%	4.73%
Variable Rate Option paying interest six	£50,000+	6.05%	4.54%
monthly. Issues A. B. C. O. E and F.	£25,000+	5.75%	4.31%
	£5,000+	5.50%	4,13%
PREMIER OPTION BONO (††)	£100,000+	6.13%	4.59%
Variable Rata Option paying interest	£50,000+	5.89%	4.42%
monthly, issues A, B, C, O, E and F.	£25,000+	5.60%	4.20%
	£5,000+	5.37%	4.02%
PREMIER OPTION BOND (†)	£100,000+	6.90%	5.18%
Fixed Rate Option paying Interest Six	£50,000+	6.80%	5.10%
monthly (Issue B)	£25,000+	6.75%	5.06%
	£5.000+	6.70%	5.03%

£100,000+

PREMIER OPTION BOND (†)

	L	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	<u></u>
TESSA PLUS A 5 year savings account with tax free interest and a special bonus interest payment of 2% on the first year's savings on maturity.	£3,000+ £500+ £1+	6.10% 4,60% 1.00%	
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PREMIER RESERVE BOND (Available from 01/01/96) A competitive one year bond for Bristol & West Follow- Up TESSA holders only.	£1,000+ £1+	6.50% 0.35%	· · ·
BONUS TESSA (Not available for new investors from 01/01/96) A 5 year savings account with tax free interest and a guaranteed interest bonus on maturity.	£3,000+ £500+ £1+	5.05% 3.55% 0.50%	
THE CHILOREN'S ACCOUNT The Instant access account for children under 14 years of age.	£1÷	2.45%	1.84%
CHARITY ACCOUNT (††) Withdrawals available on instant access.	£1+	3.10%	2.33%
OEPOSIT ACCOUNT (21)	£1+	0.60%	0.45%
SPECIAL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (11)	£1+	0.60%	0.45%
SAVINGS SHARES (No longer available) Rates also apply to Cheshunt Regular Monthly Savings.	£1+	0.55%	0.41%
SECURE INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	£2,000+	8,20%	6,15%
SECURE INVESTMENT ACCOUNT ISSUE 4	£2,000+	7.00%	5.25%
FULLY PAIO SHARE Interest paid six monthly. Rates also apply to Cheshunt Investment Share, Cheshunt Clubs, Cheshunt Ex Thrift and Cheshunt Subscription Share. (No longer available).	£50,000+ £25,000+ £10,000+ £5,000+ £2,000+ £500+ £1+	3.06% 2.86% 2.37% 2.08% 1.83% 0.25% 0.20%	2.29% 2.15% 1.78% 1.56% 1.38% 0.19% 0.15%
BONUS INTEREST BONO ISSUES 2, & 3 BONUS RETURN BOND ISSUES 1 & 2 (No longer available) 12 month Bond account with added Loyalty Interest Bonus of 0.25% gross pa on renewal in 1st and 2nd year.	£25,000+ £10,000+ £5,000+	5.50% 5.15% 4.70%	4.13% 3.86% 3.53%
BONUS BONO (Issue 2) (No longer available) 12 month Bond account with added Loyalty interest Bonus of 0.25% gross pa on renewal in 1st and 2nd year.	£250,000+ £100,000+ £50,000+ £25,000+ £10,000+ £5,000+	5.95% 5.85% 5.75% 5.50% 5.15% 4.25%	4.46% 4.39% 4.31% 4.13% 3.86%
BONUS INCOME BONO Issue 2 (††) (No longer available) 12 month Bond with added Loyalty Interest Bonus of 0.25% gross pa on renewal in 1st and 2nd year.	£250,000+ £100,000+ £50,000+ £25,000+ £10,000+ £5,000+	5.79% 5.70% 5.60% 5.37% 5.03% 4.17%	4.35% 4.27% 4.20% 4.02% 3.77% 3.13%
CHESHUNT SPECIAL 90 (No longer available) Rates also apply to Cheshunt Special 90 Gross and Cheshunt Charity 90.	£50,000+ £20,000+ £5,000+ £500+ £1+	4.45% 4.15% 3.15% 2.75% 0.20%	3.34% 3.11% 2.36% 2.06% 0.15%
CHESHUNT SPECIAL 90 INCOME (††) (No longer available)	£50,000+ £20,000+ £5,000+ £500+ £1+	4.36% 4.07% 3.11% 2.72% 0.20%	3.27% 3.05% 2.33% 2.04% 0.15%
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Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Getting a kick out of a call box

BT shareholders can return to the seasonal gluttony with an easy mind. The telecommunications giant is confident that the latest spate of vandalism to its public telephones will not develop into national trend. Neither, as has been privately suggested. will it necessitate an immediate redesign of the humble payphone (at great cost to the company). The "few isolated inci-

dents" hf phone abuse appear to have their origin in the Leicester area. A mindless sub-culture has taken great delight in delivering a sharp kick to the doors of BT payphones when some one is making a call. If executed properly the blow jams the door, trapping the help-less caller for hours on end you discover that you don't

have the right change).
For the technically minded the problem results from the steel frame of the payphone door being forced over the rubber trim. Once this has happened the caller can not then generate enough force from the inside to reverse

the process. "It is not a design fault," a BT spokeswoman assures us. But it is obviously a factor that will be taken into account for the next redesign. These are extremely rare incidents and it does require buge force to block the door. - a sustained and deliberate vandal attack."

Payphones were last redesigned in 1985. Are we about to witness the rebirth of the sturdy red callbox?

A Christmas card from Patrick Minford offers a rare glimpse into the obsessive mind of one of the Chancellor's "wise persons". Not



Under attack: A crafty kick i can trap a caller for hours

cootent with a traditional missive garnished with sprigs of holly, Prof Minford and pool research group in macroeconomics have seized the opportunity to indulge in some crystal ball gazing. In short, Prof Minford's Christmas card is little more than an economic forecast masquerading as a seasonal greeting. So what's up in '96?

In February the UK will dip into a mini recession, says Prof Minford Inflation will drop below 1 per cept and there will be a Tory backbench rebellion over inadequate interest rate cuts

European tension on monetary unioo will be resolved in April by postponing the starting date.

In August the economic slowdown will have sufficiently undermined tax cut hopes for the November :budget to put pressure on Ken Clarke to resign. And m November Bob Dole will replace Bill Clinton in the

White House.
That should sit well on the Number II mantelpiece.

Ale in the mail is not the sort of concept you would expect to appeal to the sophisticated woman. But it has been going . down a storm in the US this Christmas. A decision by down a storm in the US this christmas. A decision by America's mail order beer clubs to place ads in magazines such as Vogue proved inspired—sales of special brand beers rocketed as wives and girifricads grasped at an easy attenuative to socks and ties for presents. "Pd say 75 per cent of our customers right now are women," drawls Todd Hobnes, a 28-year-old former estate agent who runs Beer Across America, the country's largest mail order beer club. For \$15.95 a month an American woman can buy her man two supacks of musual beers—something like Hurricane Larger from Miami unusual beers — something like Hurricane Lager from Miami or Honkers Ale from Chicago. On reflection the socks sound like a good deal.

Pemberstone buys property trusts

Pemberstooe, the property either to realise their invest-group that came to the stock ments or shelter their existing market in September, is paying £11.7m for three property com-panies in a Business Expansion Scheme-inspired deal. The three were vehicles set up to take advantage of the Govern-ment's assured tenancy scheme

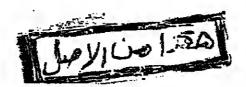
to allow investment under the now-defunct BES. Pemberstone is paying £4.175m for the First Roman Property Trust, which owns sheltered developments and flats in north Wales and Cheshire, 13.625m for the Second Roman Property Trust, owner of sheltered accommodation in Shropshire, Chester and Llanduduo, and £3.925m for the Third

Investors are being offered cash and shares, allowing them BES capital gains by taking up the shares.

The roll-over option is available because Pembersione was itself a BES company. The new shares are being offered at 66p, which compares with the 60p at which the company raised £6.75m through a placing when it came to the stock market in

September.
Capital Ventures, n subsidiary
of Pemberstone, sponsored the
BES prospectuses for all the Roman companies. Since 1997 another subsidiary. CIM, has handled the financial and property management of the three businesses. Chesterton, the Roman Property Trust, with property agents, has valued the sheltered accommodation in property assets at a combined north Wales and the Midlands. value of £11.2m.





market report/shares

FT-SE 100 3,676. 4 + 18.1 FT-SE 250 3,999.7 + 14.3 FT-SE 350 1,823.5 + 8.4 SEAQ VOLUME 316.8m shares, 16,577 bargains

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Window-dressing has Footsie flirting with all-time high Shares enjoyed a tantalising session threatening to chal-lenge their all-time peak. In the trading vacuum, sandwiched between Christmas and New Year, the stock market is little more than a parody of its nor-mal self with skeleton staffs often forced to cope with only token demand. Gilts Index 95.75 + 0.33

A few institutions, however. decided to take advantage of an actionless day and, according to some of the traders who journeyed to their offices, took the opportunity to improve their portfolio performance by nudging selected

shares higher. British Steel, the best-performing FT-SE 100 stock, was said to owe its 6.5p advance to 163.5p to gentle institutional support, reputedly on yield considerations. GEC, up 8p at

cuse. With New York staying in positive territory during the market's alleged trading session, Footsie managed an 18.1-point gain to 3.676.4, just 4 below the peak established at the start of the month.

Dixons is not a member of Footsie and, therefore, failed to make any contribution to the

index advance.
It should, bowever, make a contribution from today. The electrical retailer is the Footsie replacement for the TSB banking group, merging with Lloyds Bank. TSB firmed to 399p and Lloyds 5p to 847p. Suggestions of buoyant

Christmas trading also helped Dixons, reporting interim fig-ures soon, to score an 18p admade headway on indications of their festive sales with



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reparter of the year

take overaction still audible. J Sainsbury managed a 4p gain to 383p despite a savage con-demnation by Bill Myers, ex-perienced analyst at Williams de Broe, the stockbroker.

He declares: "Something has gone wrong with the core Sainsbury's husiness. The supermarkets have delivered a first-balf sales performance which is by far the weakest of the major grocers. "Adding to the misery, Sainsbury's margins vance to 449p. Other retailers are proving much less resilient

selling its restaurants to Whit-bread – prompted a op gain to 332p in, by the standards of the day, brisk trading. Whithread rose op to 670p. Ladbroke, the betting and hotel group which had been the favourite pre-Christmas Whitbread target. shaded 2p to 150p. Granada

to 643p.
If Granada should retire empty-handed from its Forte foray many suspect it will turn its attention to Pearson, the

responded to the proposed

restaurants sale with an 8p gain

the cash. The £682m sale price was well ahead of most fore-London Electricity slumped

111p to 588p, largely reflecting the stripping of the 100p spe-cial dividend announced in November. Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, gained 6p to 468p as the loog-running industrial dis-pute at its US AE Staley op-

eration was resolved. The row has boiled since 1992. The cold weather helped oils. British Petroleum, as it confirmed its £2.3bn Algerian exploration project which could increase its world gas reserves by up to 30 per cent.

flared 10p to 545p. Shell rose 5p to 860p.

oess failed to hrighten elec-tricities which collect most of Stanford Rook, developing a TB treatment, firmed 3p to 255p as it said it had raised f1.75m through a 200p-a-share placing; Environmed, the trouhled health-care group, held at 26p as former director Ron Theoretican and friends moved.

Zwanziger and friends moved their stake to 18 per cent.

KS Binmedix, seeking to 22.5 per develop an arthritis treatment. last year as part of a joint continued to respond to its cash-raising exercise, gaining picked up 420,000 shares lift-ing their interest to 28.7 per trophnreties' link with the

15p gain to 187p.

BTG, formerly British Technology Group, gained 70p to 1,095p following the Yamaichi ing three homes, lifting its chair to arround 17. The three

projections. Rennion Mining remained friendless. The African gold miner arrived last week

Archer-Daniels-Midland, the US agribusiness with 7.5

The Americans acquired a 22.5 per cent Acatos interest venture. On Friday they Ministry of Agriculture to re-search BSE prompted a further opening stake.

chain to around 12. The three properties will not make much contribution to correct

sport

FACES FOR '96: Two young sportsmen are at the vanguard of emerging British talent



The writing is on the wall for Danny Williams, the formidable young heavyweight from the mean streets of south London

Brixton's pearl on the brink

t night Danny Withams donal couch, Ian Irwin, tocked away with his formulas and ideas behind closed doors at Brixton Prison, enters Brockwell Park by the school and runs three firmes maind the silent grounds, passing the secret windows of a thousand council houses, the distant parade of shabby stores at Herne Hill, before heading back towards the glow of Brixton's lights. When Williams, 22, 16st 11th and 6ft 2in, runs, the street life wandering the park's

dimly lit corners pauses. As a child he walked the same route on his way to the assistant dreamers showed up gym above the Half Moon at at Williams' door to stake Herne Hill. He was big then, bold claims. Boxing bas too big and lazy. Williams often many wise guys, experts who missed training and it was his size; slowly his flesh turned hard and men at his new club, uation from a safe distance, the Lynn near Camberwell Green, started to get very ex- ed to box in Atlaota next cited. However, in the domestic championship he failed on four occasions but the na- dole and amateur boxing's

Crystal Palace, developed the fighter's natural jab and took him to tournaments all over the world. Williams fought 19 times for England, losing just four bouts, won gold at various events and bronze at the European and Common-

wealth Games.

Since 1992, bawkers from the professional business have shown an interest, but once the sweet promises started they were broken. Yet still the pray on innoceot amateurs, and Williams met them all. Frank Warren watched the sitknowing that Williams wantyear. But finally in September, after Williams decided that the James Reed on a heavyweight with shoulders broad enough to

politics were not conducive to podium strolling, a deal was done. "Danny has the speed, the power and skill to become a very wealthy man, because he is a very dangerous man,

bear the acclaim

Warren warned. In 1994 Williams demonstrated just how dangerous he can be when he met the Englist amateur champion, Dan-Liverpool Multi-nations Tournament. The bout was an unofficial box-off for a place in England's Commonwealth Games squad. It lasted 32 seconds: one left hook put

greeted his fall because he was the favourite. "I didn't enjoy it: Danny is a friend of mine. said Williams as he cast a casual glance at Watts who was changing right next to him. "It was me or him." It was a perfect punch, smooth, accurate and quick. Not the work of a 20-year-old boy. Part of the problem when

Williams was an amateur was his weight. For three years he tried to compete at heavyweight - the equivalent of the professional cruiserweight division - before moving up to super-heavyweight, or pro-fessional heavyweight, just a few months before beating Watts. There were several occarlons when Williams was ny Watts, in the final of the stuck in a sauna to lose excess

pounds. Williams has now boxed twice as a professional. On both occasions he beat men who accepted the fight knowing they would probably lose.

Watts down and out. Silence However, he anded both con-greeted his fall because he was tests with style by using sim-tration against the resistance ple tactics, basic punches and staying calm. Williams has more poise at this stage of his career than Lennox Lewis, who cuited and napped his way past a variety of domestic serifices, or Frank Bruno. who sent dozens of foreign performers helter-skeltering to early showers at the start of his career after most had simply wandered into the dreaded slipstream of one of hig

> also bigger than either Bruno or Lewis were at 22.
> In his last fight against Joey
> Paladino, at York Hall, earlier this month, Williams stood patiently as Paladino climbed up from two after counts before he ended it with just a few seconds left in the first round. These guys are big and, if they get a few rounds, all of their experience starts to show." Williams said.

He is right. This year

Frank's swings. Williams is

tration against the resistance Butcher's credentials as an all-of 10 or 12 more boxers. He rounder are somewhat dubious, can win every fight but his however. He had begun " mind must remain focused - 1994 season as a member of the young boxers always lose out- Surrey attack; but injury interfirst to acknowledge he has became the umpteenth partner just started to learn and now for Bicknell, hit his maiden has to show people he is lis-first-class hundred and a couteoing. "I have respect now," ple of fifties, and his role was he insists.

shade of fight audiences, and ed in a glorious surge of self- says even now that I could be now Naseem Hamed has in-troduced even more shades to passed 1,000 runs in his first full time a good kick up the arse. the once all-white arena. Hope- season for the county, includ-

Butcher cuts opponents to the quick

destined for something spe-cial, after his historic debut for cial, after his historic debut for Surrey against Glamorgain in a Sunday League match four years ago. His father, Alan was captain of the Glamorgan side when the then 19-year-old Butcher knocked 48 runs off his old man's attack and took Surrey to within four runs of victory. The pair became the first father and son to play against each other in any sort of match between two first-class counties. The young pup Mark cer-tainly has the breeding. His fa-

ther began his career with Surrey, won an England cap and then switched to Glamor-gan before turning coach at Es-ser, uncle lan played first-class cricket for Leicestershire and Gloucestershire; and Mark's brother, Gary, the youngest of the litter, is on the Glamorgan

playing staff.
Mind you, he could have ended up as a rock star. "I flirted ang and played lead guitar. We played our own stuff, a bit of thythm and blues, funk and that sort of thing. But really I was always going to play cricket." Butcher certainly has the

amortion to match the pedigree and the talent. "I want to be come an England player,"
Butcher says. "I want it badly.
I like watching England on the
TV, but I'd rather be doing it." What exactly he would do for

England is a moot point. A pointer can be gleaned from his musical dalliance, where he did more than one thing. So it is with his cricket. The clean-striking left-handed bat opens the Surrey innings with Darren Bicknell, but he can also bowl - right-arm seam at a fairly sharp lick, with a useful away winger in the armoury.

"I want to go for the England all-rounder's spot," he says without a flicker. "If seems to me there is room for a middle order all-rounder. Look at South Africa. They have Brian McMillan coming in at No 6 Photograph: Robert Hallam and he is also bowling 15 or so of an Ian Botham video. "I still overs in a day. That is what can't work out how he does it,"

"I- a relatively short space of time in my career I have batted pretty well everywhere and that sets you up in stead, and once you have an opened an innings I think you can bat anywhere.

On last season's former. stile die ring. Williams is the vened. On his return, Batther sorted. The bowling took a back

Williams knows he can gain seat. an even higher level of respect
if he becomes regarded as (hernia repair followed by a Two subsequent operations ping mad. But it doesn't do me if he becomes regarded as (hermia repair followed by a any good at all."

Brixtoo's black heavyweight pelvic operation) did not help but his guifficant of four prospect. Williams has lived in his cause, throwing Butcher's years, Indy sister of the Surprison all his life and he has bowling out of kilter for much rev captain. Also Sizwart seen it change. Other things of last season. Surrey and does, Sig has been a great have changed and there was a Butcher suffered. At least he help to me. Butcher admits. time when black people stayed had his batting to fall back on.

away from fights. However, Butcher's switch to opening this is what I want to do. She

David Liewellyn finds the versatile Surrey opener has his sights on an England place gall C goal city

Butcher, though, is not satisfied. "I should, as a pro. have turned at least half my fifties says harshly. "If I had had a ratio of five tons to seven fifties I would probably have had a better shout of getting on to a tour. Fifties don't tend to raise people's eyebrows quite as ich as the him hundreds."

however, it is his towning du concerns him, and since the end of the season Butcher has been working hard on it. He says of the 1995 season: "I had not had any time, pre-season, to put in a great deal of work in the nets, situation where one day I would go out and bowl OK and the very next day I would bowl a complete load of crap. But this winter has been different. I have no injuries and have been making sure I do as much bowl-



confesses Butcher with a laugh,

is and

ay Gulli

"but I'm working on it." So he has the application necessary to succeed. How

about the temperament? People can needle me a bit mainly, though, when I am be a Butcher. I am quite calm when I am batting. I just stand there and let everything wash over me. It surprises me sometimes. But as soon as I have the ball in my hand I turn into the southing idiot. That could be half the problem with my bowling, I suppose. It comes down to wanting to do well all the time. Batsmen get up my nose when I am bowling and I run in hop-

She has made me realise that It may not be long before fully it will continue changing. ing a cascade of half centuries. Butcher is kicking interna-Williams is the great black and a couple of hundreds, in found backsides on behalf of his hope, and the kid knows it. cluding a career-best 167. comby.

Man holds off Master in market

As he was completing the near down, will head a field likely to 300-mile return trip home to Cumbria from Kempton. One Man was already being installed as favourite for the rescheduled King George VI Chase at Sandown on 6 January.

The grey, 2-1 favourite for the big race with William Hill betore yesterday's abandonment, is now quoted at 13-8 by the same firm for the re-arranged race despite the likely addition of Master Oats to the field. He is 5-2 with Coral.

All bets on the contest became void and stakes refunded yesterday when a second attempl to state the race a day late at Kempton was predictably abandoned because of frost. As a result, the bookmakers formed a new market on the

race which is open to all original entrants, including Master Oats and Young Hustler, who would not have run at Kempton. One Man. to be ridden by Richard Dunwoody at San-

contain all the principal con-tenders. Only Book Of Music and Egypt Mill Prince are con-

sidered to be doubtful.
William Hill's spokesman,
David Hood, said: "The King George at Sandown now puts more emphasis on jumping. Master Oats and Young Hustler are significant additions to the race while the extra 10 days allows Brief Gale to recover from her knock."

Pat Flynn is attempting to get Montelado back to Ireland for tomorrow's Christmas Hurdle at Leopardstown after bis abortive trie to Kempion. Last night the gelding was still stranded in Britain.

King George VI Cames (Sandown, 6 January) Corat: 5-2 One Man, 4-1 Barton Bonk, Master Oats, 5-1 Menry Gale, 10-1 Val D'Alere, 12-1 Dubin Pyer, Young Hustler, 14-1 Algan, 20-1 Book Of Music, Brief Gale, Covátor, 25-1 others.

William Nit: 13-9 One Man, 4-1 Barton Borth, Menry Gale, 6-1 Misster Cats, 10-1 Algan, Val D'Alere, 12-1 Dubin Piyer, 16-1 Brief Gale, Coung Hustler, 20-1 Coultum, Mornseur Le Qure, 68-1 others.

Racing's hopes lie on sand

The British Horseracing Board yesterday moved to guarantee racecourse action in Britain this Saturday afternoon by sanctioning an extra all-weather fixture at Wolverhampton. The track is already bosting an evening meeting that day but will now stage a six-race card be-ginning at 12.55pm and ending at 3.25pm before racing re-sumes under floodlights at 7pm.

Today is the third successive blank day for racing, and to-morrow's fixtures are also likely to succumb to the weather. The BHB has approved two new races, both umited handicaps, for Cheltenham on Monday designed to attract horses that would have run in Kemp-

ton's Christmas Hurdle and Wetherby's Castleford Chase. However, the Welsh National will not be transferred to Newbury on Saturday as that card is also likely to be abandoned.

Where is France's successor to Arazi, Pennekamp or Zafonic, Liwe year ok to stalke feet into British trainers by threatening to sweep aside the best from this side of the Channel in the Classic races next year? Well hidden

is the most charitable answer. The 1995 Flat season was uncomfortable for the French. Vettori and Celtic Swing flew in from Britain and made off with their 2,000 Guineas and Derby. while their top mile event, the Prix du Moulin, fell to Ircland's Ridgewood Pearl.

Then at Longchamp in October, Hever Golf Rose and Lammtarra made it a British benefit day in the Prix de l'Abbaye and the Arc, and, unusually, there were few Gallic cheers at the presents Cup. Worst of all, there was no sub-

stantial evidence that the French will be any stronger next year. No star came to light in the shape of a Zafonic, or even a Machiavellian or Hector Protector. The publication next week of the International Classifications - racing's end-of-

year report – is likely to com-pound the gloom across the figures that the best French twoyear-olds are not within half a stone of the pick of the British,

Royal Applause and Alhaarth. The evidence is hard to ignore as the British-trained Tagula, Lord Of Men and Polaris Flight, beat most of the top French juveniles in three of their most important events, the Prix Morny, Prix de la Salamandre and Criterium de Saint-Cloud. In looking for a reason for France's inability to prevent this exportation of prize-money, the death early last year of François Boutin, a masterly trainer of juveniles, stands out. But there was also an unusual

Neil Young on the dearth of young talent to defend France's top races

Pennekamp's heir proves elusive

André Pabre's stable in the colours of Sheikh Mohammed to follow in the footprints of Ly-cius, Zieten, Lion Cavern and Pennekamp. With the Sheikh sending so many that show promise to join his Godolphin team. Pabre may beoefit from holding on to his cards.

The only runners to appeal from this camp were lightly raced sorts kept away from the top races, namely the Deauville runner-up West Memphis, and

the forefront of calculations for the French Guineas and Oaks. Loup Solitaire completed a rare double for Wildenstein when beating stable mate Man-ninamix in the Grand Criteri-um. He has been spoken of as an Epsom contender but the field in the Criterium - including British maideo winners Committal and Astor Place finished in a heap, so it is hard to regard the race as highly as In previous years.

THE TOP FRENCH TWO-YEAR-OLDS OF 1995

110 Barricade, Titus Libbs 109 With Fascination 107 Con

9 4 9

scarcity of young runners from

105 Shining Molly 104 Shining Molly 104 Electrity Range, 1.e litton, Oc-cupandiste, Stantianise 103 Spinning World

Fabre's Daniel Wildensteinclassification should be Fabre's owned juveniles were much mere prominent and their Miss in the Morny, and Stavros Niar-ches's Time Libras, fourth in the Salamandre before winning two Tahiti is probably the best French prospect for 1996. She beat a solid international field headed by Shake the Yoke in the Prix Marcel Boussac on Are weekend, and must be kept at the formation of coloridate. backend Group Three events. He may have less scope for improvement than stable mate Spinning World and the Aga Khan's Ashkalani, lightly raced colts who also picked up late au-

tunm pattern races.

Jonathan Pease, trainer of Titus Libras and Spinning World. should have an excellent year. He has high hopes of the maid-en fillies Showboat and Ciel De Feu and bandles the preco-cious With Fascination, second in the Morny and the Salamandre, and Contare, whose demonstron of a decent held of

was one of the most promising performances of 1995. But they bear a heavy burden. to achieve and promis to be torned into progress if they are to make supcessful forays to are to make success Britain weven defend their own



Ball craves Conen goals as City slide The The Inventor of the Control of the C

Since collecting his manager of the month award in November, Alan Ball has seen the rich vein of form that saw his Manchester City side record four wins and a draw dissipate as the year itself ebbs away.

City may now be playing the sort of stylish, attack-minded football that seemed beyond them at the start of the campaign, when they reached the end of October with only two points. However, City's progress has faltered alarmingly since Ball's accolade. Tuesday's 2-0 defeat at Blackburn leaves only Bolton and Coventry below them in the Premiership.

Again at Ewood Park, their excellent approach play was not converted into goals and, to enhance their seasonal misery, their defeat was confirmed by David Batty's first goal in 35

A strike-rate of 10 goals from 20 games - the worst by far in the country - is beginning to sap the players' confidence. "Tuesday just summed up what's been happening. Ball said. 'We had chances but didn't hit the back of the net, and we haven't all season.

'We missed three sitters at the start against Chelsea, but it seems that I'm talking about chances, chances, chances every game now. We are miss-ing them in the six-yard box, snatching at them, hitting the post and if you're not scoring the players have nothing to fight for, to hold on for."

While Uwe Rasler is City's top scorer with just three goals in the Premiership, Alan Shearer's opener on Boxing Day was his 16th in 10 home League match-es this season, and 24th in all. "He's got double the total for

added. "We haven't scored from a free-kick or a corner all season. I really believe it must change for us, but people will start to doubt it the longer it carries on.

"There comes a stage when people don't care how you win, how you get something. That win it anyway approach is against all my principles."

City are back in the mire, but Blackburn's performance again highlighted their poor away form. They have dropped just five points from 10 games at Ewood Park, but have collected only three on their travels. although Ray Harford, the manager, says in mitigation that their only defeat in seven games was the 5-0 mailing at Coventry.

On Saturday, Tottenham's visit will vigorously test the fortress Ewood ethos: Spurs boast the Premiership's only un-

beaten away record. Tim Sherwood, praised by Harford, is ruled out by suspension and the manager described Chris Sutton as "touch and go for Saturday, more likely for Monday," when they trav-

Harford saw Batty break his scoring drought and joked the midfielder would receive the match ball as his reward. Batty's fulminating 25-yard strike five minutes after the break secured the points after Shearer had put Rovers ahead with his 99th goal in the Premiership. It ensured that Manchester City would go into the final weekend of 1995 in the bottom three.

If only City could acquire such a formidable goal scorer, it would be far greatly received by Ball than all the baubles be-



Hold tight: The Barbarians' Justin Thomas (right) gets to grips with Rory Underwood during Leicester's 51-25 victory at Welford Road yesterday

game altered drastically from the

curiously close-quarters begin-

nings in which Dean Richards

performed in perfect accordance

with his image as Leicester's

version of the dragoman, guid-ing them through whatever vi-

cissitudes attended them, mostly

by the simple means of sticking

out one of those giant paws of his.

changed and the Barbarians

not only scored the first try -

Rudolf Straeuli creating the

position for Rudolph Berek by

bludgeon rather than rapier -

hut also led 13-11 at half-time.

For a while penalties were ex-

Tigers relax as Hackney downs Baa-Baas

Rugby Union

STEVE BALE Leicester

Barbanans

Whatever the virtue in these professional times of Welford Road's annual festive fixture, if yesterday's 78th staging has persuaded Leicester to liberate themselves from the grunt and

The Tigers have been earning poor reviews for - as they properly see it - playing to their strengths, though the crit-

league rugby, it will have per-

formed an invaluable seasonal

icism has had as much to do with the persistence with which their coaches talk of playing it otherwise. How much they will read into such a match is a moot point, partly for the very reason that there were no league points at stake, and partly because in actual fact Leicester established a winning platform by their

customary method. This involved dominance at forward before dominance in grind that characterises their the backs - precisely how they would prefer to go about their rugby in the First Division. The problem is the opposition which. unlike the more accommodatine Baa-Baas, does not readily fall in with the Tigers' intentions.

So, as it wore on, vesterday's

even after Leicester's own account had been opened by Rory Underwood.

Straculi and Wayne Proctor that concluded matters coming only once the Tigers had amassed 40 unanswered points in 30 minutes, commencing with an emblematic score by Aadel Kardooni at the end of

an all-too-typical forward drive.
This, though, was the signal for care's casting-aside. Whether Leicester will feel the urge, or the need, to do likewise against Sale on Saturday will be a fascination, but once the Barharians had suffered their softening-up Leicester's familiar inhibition was gone.

Steve Hackney scored two tries in two minutes which per-

For the Baa-Baas that was suaded the England selector Les went to great lengths to ensure

more or less that, the tries by Cusworth, an eminent ex-Tiger, to make him man of the match. Richards received the loudest acclaim for his try and Leicester took themselves to a half-century and equal to their highest score in this fixture when Underwood and Neil Back followed.

It was also their fourth win in succession over the Barbarians. and if that sequence, and growing restrictions on Barbarian selection, have led some to question the validity of both the Christmas games specifically and the famous invitation club generally, that is not how Leicesier - or, for that maner, the Bar-

barians' committee - see it. On the contrary, Leicester the match was staged, keeping the pitch covered and calling on volunteer labour to assist in clearing snow yesterday morning. As for the Barbarians, their future has been secured by yesterday's three-year extension to Scottish Amicable's sponsorship, taking them to May 1999. Leicester: Tries Undervood 2, Hackney 2, Kar-geory, Richards, Back, Conversions Hams 5

Jones and Kinnear replay Gullit tackle

to study a video replay of the the latest protest against his 10challenge on Rund Gullit before deciding whether to seek a reassessment of the 11th dismissal of Jones' career.

Jones, the Wunhledon captain, claims he played the ball when he tackled Gullit from behind during the Dons' 2-1 Boxing Day win at Stamford Bridge.

If television evidence supports that claim, Jones would be entitled to ask the referee, Dermot Gallagher, to reconsider his decision in the hope of having his second caution erased.

Gallagher yesterday declined to comment, but Pat Partridge, a spokesman for the League Referees and Linesmen's Association, said there is confusion over the tackle from behind. "People think you can't tackle from behind, but you can as long as you play the ball," he said. Jones was adamant. "If you watch it you'll see the ball has gone before the contact," he said. "It wasn't just a little nick

- the ball was in the crowd."

Vinnic Jones and the Wimble Robert Chase, the Norwich don manager, Joe Kinnear, are chairman, will carry on despite year reign. Over 500 angry fans called for him to quit after the Southend. Police made direc arrests as demonstrations threatened to turn violent.

Chase, who is taking "sensible precautions" for the safety of himself and his family, said: "I am disappointed but, if you ask if it is deterring me or distracting me, the answer is no."

Manchester City have gone continental again. They have agreed a two-month loan trial with the Benfica central defender Edmond Abazi, an Albanian international with a Portuguese passport. City now have five "foreigners".

Aston Villa are to install undersoil heating at Villa Park but the £150,000 project will have to wait until the summer of 1997. Villa will not be able to install the system in June as their ground is one of the venues for the European Championship finals.

St Helens must face inquiry

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens will face the inevitable league inquiry next month into the reserve-strength side that they fielded at Wigan on Boxing Day.

Saints, admitting that they had Saturday's Regal Trophy semi-final against Warrington on their minds, sent out a side containing just nne regular first-team player at Central Park and were beaten 58-4. Even though their chief ex-

ecutive, David Howes, insisted that there was medical evidence to explain all the absentees, the league's board of directors has summoned the club to appear in the new year. The league's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, confirmed as soon as he arrived back in the country from the Super League

international board meeting in Sydney that an inquiry will take swer to similar charges in the Wigan's Regal Trophy semiplace. "The precedents of past and St Helens must expect Leeds last year and Oldham this season mean that the Rughy Football League is bound to hold an inquiry," he said.

Leeds were fined £8,000 for fielding a team of reserves against St Helens during the runup to the Silk Out Challeng up final in 1994, and £12,440 - half of it suspended - for putting out almost as weak a side against Bradford Northern soon after.

Oldham were fined £4,000. suspended for 12 months, for sending out a weakened team against Warrington this season. Their coach, Andy Goodway. argued that he needed to look

at some of his fringe players. Leeds and Oldham produced medical certificates to justify their selections, just as Saints

similar scepticism in this case.

By the time the board of directors considers the case, of course, they will know how many of Saints' absentees have recovered in time to play .gainst Warrington. Ironically, one of the reserves used at Wigan. Chris Morley, is now out for the rest of the season after fracturing his thumb.

Bradford Bulls will mount a defence on behalf of Matt Calland, their centre, when he appears before the disciplinary committee today after being sent off for the third time this season - for a high tackle at

Warrington earlier this month. Neil Cowie, the Wigan prop, will appear at next week's disciplinary hearing. Any suspenhave said they will do in this in- sion for the punching offence for stance. That has clearly not which he was dismissed against

1932/33, has died in fork after a long illness. He was aged 82. Stocklil, who also played for York City. Scarborough. Derby County and Luton Town, was the only non-mematorial in an Arsenal side which included Eddie Hapgood, Joe Hulme, David Jack, Alex James and Citif Bastin.

final against Leeds on 6 January. Ellery Hanley, the former Wigan and Leeds captain, is

being tipped to join St George in the Australian Rughy League as player-coach. Hanley. Great Britain's coach until he signed a contract with the ARL had been expected to join Gold Coast, but St George are a far more inviting prospect. Rod Reddy, the former Australian international and Barrow coach, had been appointed to succeed Brian Smith, but he has accepted the job as coach of the new

Super League club in Adelaide. Hull have followed their neighbours. Hull KR, by recruiting from the Papua New Guinea World Cup squad. Marcus Bai, a centre who scored against New Zealand in the tournament, is due to arrive in time for the first summer season. I hit a huge stonefish on the likelihood of a record.

Whale of a surprise for Future Shock

STUART ALEXANDER

A collision with a whale knocked the Melbourne yacht. Future continuing to race. Shock, out of the Sydney to Ho-In the 1993 race, '97 won line bart Race vesterday. The incident occurred off Montague Island on the south coast of New South Wales, severely bending the rudder and damaging the hull. As the wind turned, the

hopes of the fleet of nearly 100 yachts which started the 630mile classic from Sydney on Boxing Day of establishing a roy's maxi, Kialoa, in 1975. new record time moved from odds-on to evens.

Other vachts also suftered damage. Another to report a brush with a whale was King Billy, while the 50-footer Yendys

surface and, after "hitting a hard object", Andrew Strachan's '97. one of the three boats in the British Southern Cross Cup team, was also making water but

honours when gales hit the fleet hard. However, given the fast downwind start this time, it was hoped that the maxi Sayonara owned by Larry Ellison, with another billionaire, Rupert Murdoch, as erew - would beat the time of two days 14hr 36min 56sec to Hobart set by Jim Kil-

Last night Sayonara, chased by the 69ft Foxtel Amazon and the 75ft Brindabella, was an hour outside Kialoa's schedule. Forecasts for a further shift to the west and north-west would renew the

Cardiff object to referee

Cardiff Devils are to complain to the British Ice Hockey Association about the refereeing of Graham Homer during their Premier Divisinn victory over Nottingham on Boxing Day. Cardiff won the top-of-the-table game 6-5 after leading 6-1, but the team's owner, David Temme, confirmed they would be writing to the BIHA.

eed our last three matches and we are not happy with what has happened. Temme said. "Perhaps if we had lost we would have thought twice about complaining, because it would probably have been seen as sour allow

watching a video of the game, we have to complain." Devils had three goals disal-lowed during the match. Mike Ware, their wing who was sent to the sin-bin for roughing late in the match, said he was "mys-

grapes. But we won and, after

tified" by the decision.

Sheffield Steelers took advantage of their two games

vantage of their two games to the Biha. writing to the Biha. "Graham Horner has referded our last three matches and dour last three matches and source of their two games of their two

armed in hand They been	San Antonio 96.		
games in hand. They beat	EASTERN CONFERENCE		
tingham 8-6 but were then	ATLANTIC DIVISION		
n a fright by Basingstoke	W	L	Pat
on, who came back from 4-1	Orlando22	6	.786
	New York19	7	.731
n to 4-3 and had a goal dis-	Misroi	12	.538
wed near the end.	Boston12	13	.480
	Washington12	13	.480
ey defence	New Jersey10	15	.400
	Philadelphie5	19	.208
	CENTRAL DIVISION		
	Chicago23	3	.685
ful promotions at the venue	Indiana	11	.560
in promotorista are Petrick	Cirveland13	12	.520
year, including two British	Atlanea13	13	.500
fights. The ban means that	Charlotte13	14	481
fight and support bill has had	Detroit13	14	.481
switched to Bethnal Green.	With the second	18	.350
	Toronto9	20	.310
Hertsmere Council	WESTERN CONFERENCE		

Ban shifts Delan Boxing James Murray's tragic death ful-lowing his recent British Ban-

tamweight title fight with Drew Docherty in Glasgow has led to boxing being banned at a sports centre in Potters Bar. Herismere Council, owners of the Furzefield Centre, have called a halt at a venue where

Mark Delaney was due to de- venue for boxing." fend his WBO Inter-Continenagainst the Welsh champion, Darron Griffiths, on 23 January. organisation staged three suc- Japan.

spokesman said: "Given recent boxing tragedies which have involved crowd unrest, particularly in Glasgow, we feel that Furzefield is unt a suitable

Joichiro Tatsuyoshi will chaltal super middleweight title lenge the Mexican, Daniel Zaragoza, for his World Boxing Council super-bantamweight Barry Hearn's Maichroom title on 3 March in Yokohama,

American football

American football
Sam Wyche was fired yesterday as coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 24 hours after Buddy Ryan was dismissed by the Arizona Cardinals. Wyche's departure was expected after the Buccaneers lost seven of their last nine games and finished 7-9 for their 14th consecutive losing season. Wyche became Tampe's fifth coach in 1992, replacing Richard Williamson, after coaching Cfincinnati to two AFC Central championiships. The Bengals, under Wyche, lost to San Francisco 20-16 in the 1989 Super Bowl.

MIDWEST DIVISION

8 .714 -8 .660 ins 9 .667 ins 14 .482 7 17 .292 ii 18 .230 iins .143 18 8 .680 a .640 13 .552 13 .458 15 .423 16 .385 17 .970

SPORTING DIGEST Reg Stockill, who played in Arsenal's League Championship winning team of 1932/33, has died in York after a long

Parts

Pril Taylor made an impressive start to his defence of the Vernors Pools World Champlonship in Purfleet, Essex, yesterday, beating his fellow England international, Cliff Lazarenko, 3-0 in their opening group match. Taylor, the top seed, world the first set by 3-1, the second 3-0 and third 3-1, firing five manimum 180s during the match. The 35-year-old, from Stoke, averaged 30.59 per dart. The American Sean Downs caused the first shock of the champlonship by beating the eighth seed, hevin Spiciek of Cambridge, 3-0. Jocky Wilson, the 45-year-old Scottish forms Embassy World Champlon, was forced to withdraw owing to his debettes. The gutter of the 11 cannot play in the loumanment this year, "Wilson said. "But my diabetes has hit me hand this Christmes and I have been advised by my doctor to stay at home and rest."

VERSIONS FOOLS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Chaus Taylor, Purfleet) Group Onc. P Tsylor Engl of Clacernoot Engl 3-0. Group Not. Source (US) at K Spicke Engl 3-0. Group Flour I Lower Engl at Shirth Engl 3-0. Group Flour I Lower Engl at Shirth Engl 3-0.

Football

Cettic have invited the Ajax coach, Herne Otto, to help train some of their young players. Otto, a former Middlesbrough player, was in Scotland yesterday and assisted the Parkhead management in coaching youngsters between the ages of eight and 14.

TODAY'S NUMBER 75

The spectators who have had their 1996 season tickets cancelled by the New York Giants following the snowballthowing incident during the NFL match against the San Diego Chargers.

ice hockey

Ice Indickey
BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division (Sundary):
Newcaste 5 Basingstoke 3: Sheffield 8 Notunglam 6. (Tuesdary): Basingstoke 3 Sheffield
4. Cardiff 6 Neungham 5. First Division (Sundary): Blackburn 10 Medway 2. Murrayfield 7
Billingsam 4: Pasitry 9 Swindon 4: Peterbrough 7 Testod 11. (Tuesdary): Durnfres
16 Nurrayfield 2. Solhul 2 Guldford 21: Testod
10 Medway 3.
NHC: Derron 3 St Louis 2: Millianders 3
Boston 3 (of), Mil Rangers 6 Ottawa 4: Prishurgh 6 Buffelo 3: Westington 4 Montreal 0;
Chicago 5 Delles 3: Colorado 5 San Jose 1.
Caligary 4 Vancouver 2.

Holme, David Jack, Alex James and Chiff Bastin.

Sporting Lisbon's Brazilian midfield player, Roberto Asis, has joined Vascoda Gama of Rio de Jameiro on loan for so months. Assas has been out of favour with the Sporting coach Carlos Queiros after joining the club at the start of the season from the Swiss team. Sion.

SUSPENSIONS: Sendings-off: D Whyte (Modestrough: 1 mitch from 30 Dec; Kiddeardson (Constry) 1 match from 30 Dec; J Bereston di Neurosie 1 mitch from 30 Dec; C Bergison (Botton) 3 matches from 30 Dec; S Boald (Assaral) 1 mitch from 30 Dec; T Sherwood (Backburn) 2 matches from 30 Dec; A McDorsald (OPR) 2 matches from 30 Dec; A McDorsald (OPR) 2 matches from 30 Dec; A McDorsald (OPR) 2 matches from 30 Dec; Y Overson (Stoke) 2 matches from 30 Dec; Y Nones (Charlon) 2 matches from 30 Dec; J Vian Blerk (Midwall) 2 matches from 30 Dec; J Vian Blerk (Midwall) 2 matches from 30 Dec; J Vian Blerk (Midwall) 2 matches from 30 Dec; J Samelge (Dechn) 2 matches from 30 Dec; J Samelge (Dechn) 2 matches from 30 Dec; J Ballock (Muddestpield) 2 matches fr EASTERN CONFERENCE W L T GF BAPTS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pools news

Rugby Union

PACIFIC DIVISION

The dardend forecast is very good with nine score draws and nine no-score CORE DRAWS: 2, 14, 17, 21, 26, 38, 39 NO-SCORE DRAWS: 6, 22, 23, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 42,

Gloucester have recruited the former England Cohs centre, Alastair Saver-imutto, from Third Division Coventry. The 25-year-old, who has also had spells with Bath and Bhslol, is the second FOOTBALL RESULTS

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Milwall 2 Oxford Utp 4, Postponed: Chelsea v Sourhampton: Chystal Polace v Bris-tol Chy; Potsmouth v Inswich: Queen's Pan Rangers v Charlion: Swindon v Norwich.

FA Carling Premiership

youngster to join Gloucester within a week, following the move from Bath by the England Under-21 prop-forward, Trevor Woodman. REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Leicester 51
Barbarans 25. SCOTTISK UNDER-21 INTER-DISTRICT CHAM-PIONSHIP: Postponed: Glasgo: . Edwburgh

DR MARTENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE (Inth-lingborough): P Ebdon Eng to k Dohen, thei

Tennis The United States, in the snape of Richev Reneberg and Changa Rubin, will re-place the Swedish pair of Mars Wilan-der and Asa Carisson in the eight-hation

der and Asa Cansson in the eight-habon hopman Cup, which begins on Sunday in Peritt. The Croatian ream of Goran hanisevic and ha Majoli are the love seeds for the event, which forms part of the build-up to the Australian Open. TODAY STEEX TURES Football

PORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premie Division: Dundalk v Derry CG₁ 17,451. Other sports DARTS: WDC Championships (Circus Talem Purfleet): British Open (Earls Court, London)

SNOOKER: Dr Mariens European League (Di-amond Centre, Inthingborough).

IT'S A ROLLOVER!

Oraw date: 23/12/95. The winning numbers: 6, 11, 34, 40, 47, 49. Bonus number: 16 Total Sales: £67.920.715. Prize Fund (45% of lickel sales): £30,564,321.				
CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER	
Match 6 (Jackpot)	0		(£11.730.015	
Match 5 plus honus ball	5	£721.847	£3.609.235	-
Match 5	441	£5.11S	£2,255,715	_
Match 4	33,322	£148	£4,931,656	-
Match 3	800,660	£10	£8,006,600	-
TRIALS	834,428		£30,533,221	-
atal Sales including Instants; £93,920,715.		Breakage (01)	r (Ounded down to nearest £1)" £31.:	i

in the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camolol central computer system shall prevail

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

sport

FOURTH TEST: South Africans take full advantage of sloppy fielding as Adams has his first taste of cricket at the highest level

England hand out **Christmas** presents

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Port Elizabeth

South Africa 428

England 40-1

It only takes a day like yesterday to realise that when it comes to handing out Christmas presents England are unrivalled in their generosity. It is a fact that the rest of the cricketing world have known for some time, but if South Africa have only just found out they made the most of it, spending the day husily ripping apart some gift-wrapped bowling to make 428, the highest total of the series so

On a pitch now settled into a deep slumber, there was little comfort or joy for any of England's bowlers, who were either too short and wide or too full and straight. South Africa were

able to bat on until well after tea. There were six dropped catches, three of them in five balls off Richard Illingworth. With South Africa well on top and pushing for quick runs, the misses did not prove costly, but they were symptomatic of England's objectly sloppy day in the field. Apart from Dominic Cork, who took 4 for 113, the rest of England's attack looked as if it had been to the local back-street dentist to have its teeth pulled.

The one thing Raymond Illingworth still does not appear to realise is that, unless the opposition lays down and dies. England have got to get them out. A faint hope when the hall is not swinging and you have picked three swing bowlers of

It was clearly a factor that registered with one British hookmaker, who started the It looked a good bet after Cork sent Daryll Cullinan back with his first-ball loosener. Cork clearly has a touch of Botham

(Second day: South Africa won loss) B M McMillan c Russell b Introvento ... 49 172 min. 118 balls. 4 lours. 1 sb1 †II) Richardson c Russell b Mingworth ...84 (225 min. 189 balls, 11 fours) S M Pollock low to Cork 77 min, 44 palls, 3 fours)

A A Donald not out P R Adams run out (Gallian-Russell)

be wondering how he managed to thin edge such a juley long-hop just nine short of a hundred.

The lack of swing has so far affected England's sole strike bowler, and he suffered further when Mark Hort limped off with a thigh strain soon after lunch, an injury that makes him a doubtful starter for the second innings. With 43.2 overs to his name. Cork had done most of the donkey work as well. a situation England can ill afford unless they want to become known solely a side of mediocre medium-pacers.

Mind you, judging from the 212 runs he has scored in this series, it is something Brian McMillan has known for some time. Coming in at No 6, he once again steered his side past the 300 mark, from where it is hard to lose.

Whereas England's lack of pace just saw him bide his time, it allowed his partner. Dave Richardson, to prosper. Richardson is far from his best when the ball is winging around his ears hut, as there was no one able to do this, he was allowed to look several classes above his usual berth at seven or eight. and he and McMillan added 75

for the sixth wicket.

Once McMillan had gone to
a sharp catch by Russell. Richardson came into his own, Using his feet to the spinners. he treated his home crowd to some high-class stroke-play.

Before this match started. England had requested that the national anthem be played before the start of play each day to give them, as Ray Illingworth put it: 'A little tingle down the back of the neck.

It is difficult to know how long such an effect might have lasted had things gone Engthis time with Shaun Pollock, the only collective feeling England will have felt would have been a sinking one in the pit of

Port Elizabeth scoreboard

Fall (cont): 5-251 (Cultinan), 6-326 (McMillan), 7-379 (Politick), 8-408 (Richardson), 9-426 (Morthews), 10-425 (Adams), 9-426 (Matthews), 10-425 (Adams), Boutling: Cork 43.2-12-113-4 (nb10) (5-1-14-0, 7-4-7-1, 6-1-10-0, 5-0-26-1, 5-0-26-1, 5-3-9-0, 5.2-1-14-1, 4-2-7-0); Bott 28,4-7-82-1, 7-3-10-0, 3-0-17-0, 5-2-16-1, 4-1-11-0, 8-1-26-0, 1-4-0-2-0); Martin 33-9-79-1 (7-2-20-0, S-1-11-1, 5-1-9-0, 5-2-6-0, 3-1-8-0, 3-1-4-0, 3-1-9-0, 2-0-12-01: Milngworth 39.5-8-105-3 [4-2-5-0, 10-3-25-0, 40-21-0, 12-3-29-1, 2-0-7-0, 7.5-0-18-2]; Hick 12-2-32-0 [1-0-3-0, 3-0-8-0, 8-2-21-0]; Gellian

dged in by the third umpire. Rudi Koertzen - when the replay clearly showed the hat to be on the line, which is out. Only when Richardson fell for \$4, to a stunning catch by Jack Russell from a ball Illing-

worth turned out of the rough, did England deserve genuine applause. It was a remarkable smissal, with the ball rebounding like a pinball from bat edge to pad and then off both oves before heing scooped up by Russell, who had scuttled round the batsman like a sewer rat on heat.

generous 12-1 to win this match. son had beloed add another 50, then what followed verged on the slapstick. In the space of nine balls from Illingworth. England dropped three catches hut still managed to bowl South

> FMGLAND - First Innings "M A Atherton not out 174 min, 67 balls, I four! A J Stewart & Richardson b Pollock.

Fall: 1-7 IStewarti.
To batt G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, †R C Russell. 11 G Cork, P J Martin, R K Blingworth, M C Boutling: Donald 4-0-9-0 (rbt3) (one spell); Pollock 5-3-6-1 (vil) (3-2-5-1, 2-1-1-0); Atlastis 7-2-16-0 (one spell); Matthews 4-2-6-0 (one spell).

Umpires: S A Buckner and C J Machley.

TV replay umpire: R E koertzen. Mateix referee: C H Uoyd.

to warrent Jason Gallian's exaggerated caution as England ded the day on 40 for 1 As an opening batsman, Gallian was brought to South Africa as a potential solution to England's No 3 problem. Yesterday he may as well have gone in first after Alec Stewart edged his third ball to the keeper

Africa out, including the 18-year-old debutant Paul Adams, the stomach, Both hatsmen survived several dropped catchrun out for nought.
Nought or not, his departure es and a run out decision - ad-

was cheered just as enthusiastically as his entrance, a resounding cacophony of cheers from both sets of supporters. This is clearly a popular selec-

tion, and a right one too. His captain clearly thinks so too, and he wisely brought him on in the eighth over. If there were nerves to conquer they were not apparent and his first two overs were maidens with nary a dull ball in them. Only a couple of halls turned enough

playing an appallingly indecisive back foot push at a ball that was begging to be either cut hard or

left alone. This is the 16th successive Test innings in which Stewart has failed to pass 50 as an opener, and apart from the edged four he managed off the previous ball, the only other service he performed was to make sure the sightscreens were in place for when Gallian arrived, and where England will be hoping he remains



Michael Atherton (top) faces another fulminating delivery from the precocious Paul Adams while England's Alec

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ABUR SEEL A CONT

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The second

England agree first 'Throwing' tour of Zimbabwe

England will break new ground next year by touring Zimbabwe for the first time. England will be in southern Africa from 30 November to 3 January, and will play two Tests - the first between the countries - and three one-day internationals before going on to tour New Zealand. According to Zimbabwe's

cricket union, which was granted Test status in 1992, negotiations are underway to arrange tours by Australia and West Indies, the only Test-playing nations other than England who have not played there vet.

what to expect from the Under-19 team, which sets off today for a six-week tour of Zimhabwe. England's last matches against Zimbabwe were during their tour of Australia last winter. The pair played two one-day

internationals, winning one

match each.

match each.
Evalund Total of SUMBARNY (30 Nov 1996
to 3 Jan 1997: 30 Nov Detrice (Harare South
County Cubi: 1 Dec President's XI Harare
Sports Clubi: 3-6 Dec Mashonaland (Harare
Sports Clubi: 3-5 Dec Mashonaland (BuJavoyo Queen's Cubi: 10-23 Dec Matabeletand (BuJavoyo Queen's Cubi: 15 Dec Frest one-dey
International (Bulaneyo Queen's Cubi: 13-22
Dec First Test (Bulaneyo Queen's Cubi: 13-22
Dec First Test (Bulaneyo Queen's Cubi: 13-23
Dec Second Test (Harare Sports Cubi: 1
Jam Second one-day international (Harare
Sports Cubi: 3 Jam Pintal one-Day International
(Harare Sports, Cubi: 0)

Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lanka off-spinner, survived further scrutiny of his suspect action yesterday, having been no-balled for throwing the previous day, as Australia's butsmen hammered his team on the second test of the second Test in Melbourne.

Muralitharan, urged by the International Cricket Council to alter his action after being noballed seven times by the Australian umpire. Darrell Hair. bowled 20 more overs without being called for throwing. Australia, meanwhile, ex- retary of the Board of Control

bowler continues unchallenged

- and Sri Lanka were 29 for 1 at the close. After his troubles on Tuesday. Muralitharan operated entirely under the gaze of the New Zealand umpire, Steve Dunne, at the bowler's end, with little or no discernible change in his action. In a confusing twist to the question over the legality of the Sri Lankan's action. Dunne did not intervene at any stage. Hair was equally silent as he looked on from square leg, the position from which an umpire usually calls a bowler for throwing.

Anura Tennekoon, the sec-

tended their overnight 234 for of Cricket in Sri Lanka, said he 3 to 500 for 6 declared - Steve would approach the umpires Waugh hitting an unbeaten 131 over the issue at the end of the match. "We have to find out exactly from the umpires why some deliveries were called as no-halls and why some were

not," he said.
To be called in a Test match is rather harsh on a player. The fact that it has been done means we will have to take some action." Asked if that meant an official representation to the ICC, the game's world ruling body, Tennekoon said: "No."

He said Sri Lanka were not considering sending for a replacement bowler at this stage, but added: "It is one of the things we have to discuss."

McCrath. Bowling: Wideramannighe 30,2-9-77-2; Veas 40,4-11-93-1; Hattunuangte 9-0-23-0; Murathrama 38-7-124-1; Cunushina 20-8-0; Seva 35-5-120-1; De Silve 10-0-47-1. (Veas completed an over eiter Wideramanighe leit the field Injured).

Extras Total (for 1, 13 overs)

Falls 1-3.
To bet: PA os SAve. "A Rensturge, H P Tiss-leature, IR S Kaluettherane, W P U I C Vate, G P Wisdemrasinghe, M Muzaitharan, K J Save. Bowling: McDemmot 4-1-12-0; McGrath 6-2-10-1; Renfel 3-1-7-0.

Lara ready for a return to action

Brian Lara intends to make his to playing cricket. He is looking return to cricket tomorrow for relaxed and at ease, this holiday Trinidad and Tobago in a Red has done him a world of good." Stripe Cup trial match.

Caribbean News Agency that Lara, who withdrew from the West Indies party for the current tour of Australia, has accepted the captaincy of the team for the first-class Cup competition,

which starts next month.

We are all looking forward to seeing him back making runs. It will be great to see him out there," Cuffy said. "He has had

He also intimated the record-Theo Cuffy, the Trimidad and breaking batsman would be back Tobago cricker manager, rold the playing for the West Indies in the Caribbean News Agency that World Cup. "I am sure he would like to captain Trinidad and Tobago to a Red Stripe victory, but he will most likely be available for only the first two games as the West Indies are this to trav-el to India for the World Cup." Lara withdrew from the West Indies' tour of Australia after being fined 10 per cent of his fee for breathes of contract during his rest and he wants to get back this year's tour to England.

They never fail to convey the impression that football is an art so involved as to be removed from ordinary understanding

An American friend, a man of rare perception at ringsides and in racing press boxes but of Peters, who employed me hriefly as around sport for longer than it is comfortable to remember; that old playing wounds ache at this stage of the no great patience, never ventures forth on New Year's Eve for fear that he will be pestered by inchriated sporadic drinkers. He refers to them as amateurs. When applied to watchers of sport, the term raises similar thoughts personally. Since no authority has ever been claimed here. I have a problem

with people who pose as expens. This includes those who cannot he budged from the view that boxing is fixed, bar-room tacticians, crities who should stick to their own fields of journalism, editors of fanzines and authors of what is dog-eared but still unexpired cre-known as the new football writing. dentials. They are that I have been er there is a chance, but triers who never fail to convey the im-

a consultant more than 30 years ago after gaining control of the Toronto Falcons in the North American Soccer League, From his experiences as a deck-hand, lumberjack, lakehopping pilot and card sharp, Peters was deeply suspicious of anyone who professed superior knowledge. Don't talk to me about experts. The would say. "Ex is something in the

past and a spurt is a spray that didn't I creep into the issue at this point only because I possess some rather

year: that in time I came to respect and follow diligently the advice of an old professional which was to observe with my ears as well as my eyes. "The more you listen, the more you are

likely to learn," he said. In acknowledging a debt to him, it must be said that he was unshakably of the opinion that no hope could be held out for footballers whose principal asset was willingness. Applying himself to a vigorous exposition of that premise, he was fond of saying: "If you are spoken of as



might as well go off and dig roads." As it appears that there are plen-ty of navvies caraing a good living from football, the term is offered for

and technical as to be removed from ordinary knowledge and understanding. In their eagerness to pose as experts they fill the air with fashionable theories and jargon, ignor-ing an unassailable truth, which is that sport is best served by uncom-

Of course, strategic develop-ments have played havoc with the language of football, but a case can still be made for the positional clar-ity that existed when education could be improved in the company of such notable mentors as Jock Stein, Alf Ramsey, Bill Nicholson, Matt Busby and Bill Shankly. Today we have playmakers - all

pression that it is an art so involved too few of them - anchor men, strikers, sweepers, wide players, wing backs and forwards who play "in the

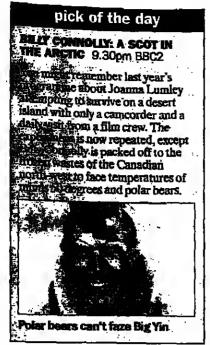
versation. At an age when they should be eager to impersonate heroes, boys hear about closing

backs and forwards who play in the hole." According to contemporary literature, England are still flirting with the Christmas tree formation. In the language of television commentators, to have a poor defence is to be weak at the back and when every player gives of his best a team revery player gives of his best a team of the back shall situations, and forwards who run intelligently into space are said to be probing the gullies.

There could be no legitimate objection to any of this if it was confined to professionals. Trouble is that said to be probing the gullies. With the end of another year almost
There could be no legitimate objection to any of this if it was confined to professionals. Trouble is that any age in sport, when everybody it has been taken up in general con- speaks and nobody listens.

entropies de la company de

today's television & radio



S ay what you like about Nick Broom-field, the permanently bemused filmmaker, but you always know where you are with him: usually in a car, driving along a freeway, portentous strings playing on the soundtrack, and him on the car-phone being turned down for an interview with the subject of his film. Heldi Floiss: Hollywood Madam (BBC2) began like this, a sequence familiar to those who have got to know his work over the years. Work in which he made much mileage (and a great deal of footage) not managing to land audiences with Eugene Terreblanche and Margaret and Mark Thatcher. Now who mainlines on publicity, was avoiding him. Such is his growing lack of success, you feel it is only a matter of time before he fails to interview Michael Winner.

There is something refreshingly honest though. Almost every other documentarymaker pretends to have greater access than they possess, and here is a man cheerfully revealing how far outside he is. Besides. how close would you want to be to the as any interview. This film was shot through



people he was profiling here? Fleiss, a woman blessed with all the privileges a background could provide, had been drawn into a world so sordid it made you weep: beautiful girls, motivated solely by money, being manipulated by sadists to satisfy appetites jaded by excess.

"I used to be hired by a plastic surgeon Heidi Fleiss, pander to the stars, a woman to the stars," explained one Fleiss girl Broomfield managed to talk to. "He paid me to sit and watch him light his pipe and freebase on coke. I didn't find it rewarding I prefer to have a nice meal and an intellectual conversation. Then fool around about this approach of Broomfield's, afterwards." Hookers can't be choosers.

The point about a Broomfield film, however, is that the mechanics of incompetence - the phone-calls, the door-

with lovely moments - Fleiss asking another camera crew their advice as to whether she should accede to Broomfield's demand for And it wasn't until the end of 90 minutes an interview, or a madam on the other end that you realised that the one question of his car phone yelling. "I'm so sick of you.

I'm going to call the BBC and tell them I'm subject for a documentary remained steadbeing harrassed by their members!"; or fastly unanswered: whose numbers were in Broomfield asking a hooker on Sunset Boulevard if she knew Heidi, and the hooker, assuming him to be using slang for some obscure sexual practice, shricking: "What are you on about?"

More than that, though, the bits of business help create the picture of the world Broomfield's quarry moves in. The testihe thought he was on the record, was beau-sciences for 11-year-olds (just about my tifully subverted by the footage which level the day after Boxing Day) opens preceded it of him haggling over the fee. And, while another documentary-maker of pre-pubescents: "In your lifetime the would simply show the home movies of Heidi filmed by her lover, Broomfield caplained that he had bought them from the man. Nothing more needed to be said steppings, the rejections - are as enjoyable about the contempt with which those within Heidi's orbit treated each other.

The problem with building a picture this way, however, is that it takes a long time. her little black client book?

It is good to see that one television Yuletide tradition remains intact. The one in which children are forced to sit down in front of The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (BBC2), in the vain hope that something useful might percolate into the blancmange that is their tellymony of a vice-squad policeman, for overdosed brains. And then James Jackson, instance, all moral self-righteousness when in his marvellous introduction to earth population of the earth will treble." Is this really the sort of horrifying thought we want to implant in our children's minds? For a moment, the Power Rangers Christmas Pantomime looked like harmless fare in comparison.

gom BBC2 Kee and Hot in Tuscany, bringing Shakespeare to the masses, might shike you as a very good reason to inhe the dog for a walk - but, all in all this is a decent, somny situition of Stiakespeare's minedy with Michael Keston. Kranu Resves and Denzel Mastington postocking too blank when faced with the blank verse.

film of the day

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING



BBC 1

7.00 News; Local News; Weather (4723157).

7-10 Toy Symphony (R) (S) (2349515).
7-35 Favourite Songs (R) (7263515).
8.00 News; Local News; Weather (4076751).
8.10 Joe 90 (R) (5808138).

8.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turties (R) (7061409), * 9.00 News; Local News; Weather (5137480), 9.05 Global Gatecrash (S) (8263664).

9.30 Stone Protectors (R) (89374).

10.00 Playdays (S) (5286765). 10.25 William's Wish Wellingtons (R) (S) (5192461). 10.30 [] The Three Musketeers (Richard Lester 1973 UK). Dumas played greatly for laughs by Michael York, Ollie Reed, Faye Dunaway and a host of other British hams. A rare box-office hit made with Panamanian

money (28048374). * 12.15 Disneytime: Dannii on Safari. Dannii Minostie in

Targania (S) (8016044). 12.55 Local News; Weather (1,2901799). 1.00 News; Weather (48462916). *

1.10 Neighbours (S) (89910374). * 1.30 Cartoon (15013461).

1.40 The Borrowers. Showing in two parts, the acclaimed children's TV adaptation of Mary Norton's book about a family who, it says here using metric measurements, are only 15cm high. Ian Holm and Penelope Wilton lead the cast, Concludes tornorrow at the same time (R) (S) (6773765). *

3.05 FIEM Superman III (Richard Lester 1983 US). Evil types bent on world domination invent a naughty super-doppelganger. Christopher Reeve battles himself. Lovely tosh with great FX. Stars Richard Pryor, Robert Vaughn, Pamela Stephenson (81738916). *

5.05 Newsround Review of the Year (2073041). * 5.35 Neighbours (R) (S) (406374). * 8.00 News; Weather (984770). *

6.15 Local News Magazines (989225). 6.30 Telly Addicts Christmas Special Famous couch potatoes (S) (935). * 7.00 Big Break (S) (3570).*

7.30 EastEnders. Thicky Ricky is determined to get some answers about his dad (5) (119): 8.00 Great Ormand Street. Emotive tales from the wards

of the children's hospital (S) (6190). 8.30 The Lenny Henry Christmas Show. Chris Eubank talks about what Christmas means to him. You'd have thought he'd have learned by now (S) (5225). *

9.00 News; Local News; Weather (6935), * 9.30 Billy Connolly: A Scot in the Arctic, Glaswegian on ice. See Pick of the Day (S) (911916). *

10.20 They Think It's All Over. Festive football fun with 11.00 Review of the Year 1995. War and scandal (S)

(135664), * 12.15 DE Carry on Behind (Gerald Thomas 1975 UK). Archaeologists ooh er their way round a caravan site. Stars Kenneth Williams and Windsor Davies, but not Barbara Windsor, who was cuffing Phil and Grant Mitchell round the ear and packing them off to school at the time (445981).

1.45 Weather (260950-1). To 1.50am.

BBC 2

7.05 The Great Dictator (Charles Chaplin 1940 US). Satire which took Charlie Chaplin off Hitler's Christmes card list for good. Also stars Paulette Goddard, Jack Oaloe (34375461).

9.05 TEM What Price Hollywood? (George Cukor 1932 US). The original A Star is Born stars Constance Bennett and Lowell Sharman as the ingénue and the sozzled power-broker who gets her places (7003041). 10.30 The Voyage of Charles Darwin. Captain FitzRoy plans to found a Christian colony, but Darwin has

misgivings (R) (52119). 11.30 The Royal Institute Christmas Lectures — Planet Earth, an Explorer's Guide. Dr James Jackson reveals that the key to understanding how the Earth moves lies not above the see but deep in the oceans

12.30 The River of Sound, irish music from the lives of Christy Moore, Van Morrison and piper Davy Spillane

1.30 What Did You Do in the War, Auntie? The BBC in World War Two, according to this repeated film, it's a story of transformation, really, as the governing classes slowly realised that the wireless, rather than being a threat, might actually be a tool of war (S) (97586848).

Fiddler on the Roof (Norman Jewison 1971 US). Oscar-winning musical about matchmaking on the frozen steppes, as Ukrainian milkman Topol is determined to find five husbands for his five daughters. Tentfic, bold cinema with catchy tunes and functional tyrics (64808867). * 6.00 Wallace and Gromit in A Grand Day Out, Nick

Park's BAFTA-winning animation in which a men and his dog take a rocket trip (R) (S) (537886). * 6.25 Star Treic Deep Space Nine. Adventures in the wormhole (S) (399577). *

7.10 The Car's the Star. The infamous Austin Allego (S)

7.30 Sylvie Guillem. The French genius does amazing things with her legs in works by Jonathan Burrows and Francoise Ha Van'(S) (461). 8.00 Decisive Moments: Images from the News 1995. Major photographic images of 1995 (3119). *

9.00 PM Much Ado About Nothing (Kenneth Branagh 1993 UK). (S) (94438157). * 10.50 Trick on Two. Prestidigitation (S) (508916). *

11.00 EN Man of the West (Anthony Mann 1958 US). Pleasant formula western in which a reformed gunslinger gets involved in one last heist. The cast list - Gary Cooper, Lee J Cobb., Arthur O'Connell, Jack Lord - reads like a who's who of westerns (941848).

(S) (7844691). 1.20 The Big Knife (Robert Aldrich 1955 US). Fabulous example of the Hollywood-on-Hollywood ruthless studio boss Rod Steiger. Apparently Palance and Steiger loathed each in real life, which adds considerable piquancy to their scenes together

(566252). 3.00 Weatherview (76637146). To 3.10am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV (8181848).

9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man (R) (8278596). 9.50 Batman – the Animated Series (S) (1859374). 10.20 News; Local News (3718139). 1 10.30 States of Gold. Torvill and Dean and Robin Cousins are the star attractions in this ice-sketing extravaganza

11.30 The Magic of David Copperfield. Lupine trickery (R) (4022409). 12.20 Local News; Weather (8112461). * 12.30 News; Weather (2987799). *

12.55 Christmas in Emmerdale. Prants, pub clashes and revenge (R) (8877848). *
2.00 Em Daffy Duck's Quackbusters (Greg Ford and

Terry Lermon 1989). Chostbusters perodied by Bugs Burny and Porty Pig (8049645). 3.15 News (8696596). * 3.20 Local News (8693409). *

3.25 Big (Penny Marshall 1988 US). A small boy makes a wish and turns into Tom Hanks. Very attractive role-swap cornedy - the best of this mid-Eighties cycle – in which Hanks delights as the big beby (S) (19146954). * 5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating. Then The Missing File

(2067480).*

(2007480).*
5.40 News; Weather (770596). *
5.55 Your Shout (257138).
6.00 Home and Away Special. Shane and Angel's wedding, in which Angel looked lovely in white taffeta and matching wheelcheir (751). *
6.30 Local News (913). * 7.00 Back to School, Mr Bean. Classroom grunts (R) (S)

(2138). 7.30 Emmerdale. Frank fights for survival. Kim gets tough

8.00 The Bill. An abandoned baby (1886). 1 8.30 Schofield's TV Gold. Recycled clips - Victor Meldrew, Steptoe and Son, Les Dawson - topped and tailed by Phillip Schoffeld. Someone give this man a proper job

(SI (92225). * 9.30 McCallura. Pilot for a possible forensic drama with John Hennah, a face you might remember from Four Weddings and a Funeral (as Simon Callow's lover). Unpromising, but things can only get better (11206). 11.00 News; Weather (941732). *

11.15 Local News; Weather (232596). * 11.25 IIII True Identity (Charles Lane 1991 US). So-so role-swap comedy in which a black actor turns white to avoid the mob. Lenny Henry does what he can with a

feeble script (S) (946393). * 1.05 BISM The Bride (Franc Roddam 1985 US). Leaden

(95861349). bands thrash it out at the Clapham Grand (S)

3.20 The Panasonic Sound Blast Awards 1995. College

Satellite

7.00am The DJ Kat Show (71190).

8.00 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (17683). 8.30 Press Your Luck (16954). 9.00 Court TV (55026).

(96190), 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (71916), 12.00 Jeopardy (10770), 12.30 Murphy Brown (34848), 1.00 The Waltons (22003), 2.00 Geraldo (43190), 3.00 Court TV (8577),

9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (83916). 10.30 Concentration

3.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

3.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (8179393). 4.20 Undum (1263480). 5.00 Star Trak: The Next Generation (2157). 5.00 The Simpsons (111), 6.30 Jeopardy (1393). 7.00 LAPD (3885). 7.30 M*A*S*H (7577). 8.00 The Bible. Joseph Part II (89312). 10.00 Star Trak: The Inter (69312).

Trek: The Next Generation (75119). 11.00 Law and Order (92409).

12.00 Late Show with David Letter tran (8608691), 12.45 The Un-

touchables (6053542). 1,30 The Edge (81542). 2,00-6,00am Hit Mix Long Play (7558233).

spends caring for the child (97827003). 7.40 US Top Tan

(417003). 8.00 Hot Shors! Part Deux (1993). Comedy sequel stanting

Young commando Topper Harley is sent to rescue hostages held in the Middle East. Valeria Golino returns as

10.00 Nowhere to Run (1993), Dra-

ma starting Jean-Claude Van Damme

widow and her two children, but they

are facing a major threat from some

urscrupulous land developers who are trying to drive them off their land (878393). 11.35 Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise (1997).

and Rosavia Arquette. An escaped

convict seeks refuge with a young

Chartie Sheen and Lloyd Bridges.

NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.

4.20 On the Live Side (R) (S) (90816252). 4.45 ESS Follow the Leader (William Beaudine 1944 US). Bowery Boy goes to chokey. Dated cornedy with Leo Gorcey, Huntz Hall (3043233). 5.55 ITN News (1353271). To 6.00em.

Channel 4

6.40 Ulysses 31 (R) (1613954). 7.05 The Adventures of T-Rex (R) (2317916). 7.30 Little Drecula (R) (35190).

8.00 The Big Breakfast. Bizerre mixture of Roy Hattersley, Fern Britten and the Outhere Brothers. Will any of them have heard of the others? (24596).

10.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (R) (9781175). *
10.25 Babylon 5. Genetically altered telepath fuglifive mutates into destructive superbeing (R) (S) (3065393). *

11.20 California Dreams (R) (2476995). 11.45 Biter Mice from Mars (S) (2145664). 12.10 The Super Mario Bros (R) (3877138).

12.20 Dennis (R) (3110003). 12.30 Sesame Street. Zap Marna meet A, K and 4

(41003). 1.30 The Air Globes, Colombian childhood memories

(15020751). 1.45 (1511 The Bishop's Wife (Henry Koster 1947 US). Cary Grant typecast as an angel who answers David Miven's prayers. Well, it wouldn't be Christmas if they didn't play this, would it? Also stars Loretta Young

3.45 The Agony and the Ecstasy (Carol Reed 1965 US). Charlton Heston paints the Sistine Chapel, Very sincere, absolutely laughable. Rex Harrison is the Pope (28566312). *

6.00 Home improvement (S) (393). * 6.30 New Gernesmaster (S) (645). 7.00 News; Weather (3480). *

7.30 Wild Britain. Amphibians and the hard times the poor

darlings must endure (R) (S) (1.57). 8.00 Fierce and Gentle Creatures, John Cleese on animal conservation at Jersey Zoo. Jamie Lee Curtis and Kevin Kline help out. Is there something fishy here? (S) (1515). 1

Johnny Depp as a pretty boy with scissors for hands and a heavy line in self-pity. Nonetheless, suburban cuttle Winona Ryder falls in love with him, as did ... millions of pubescent girls the world over (50683).

11.30 Eyewitness (Peter Yates 1981 US). Inadequate Janitor William Hurt convinces newscaster Sigoumey Weaver that he knows the truth about a murder. Unfortunately, the mob believes him, too. Effective thriller also starring Christopher Plummer, James

Woods (S) (11634). * Roy William Neill. 1944 UK). Basil Rathbone SHAMMAN

humphs on the sidelines (3029558). 2.40 Rawhide. lowen Injun grief (5358436). 3.35 Jools at the Ritz. Jools Holland and his Rhythm &

Blues Orchestra with Roland Gift, Laverne Brown. Mica Parts and Ruby Turner (R) (S) (7554184). 4.35 The World of Hammer. Oliver Reed pops up in the dead zone (R) (54374788). To 5.00am.

TV GUIDE BY SERENA MACKESY

ITV/Regions

MCIA
As London except: 12.20pm Anglia News (8112461). 3.20 Anglia News and Weather (8693409), 5.10 Shortland Street (2067480). 6.25 Anglia News (2421895). 6.30 Anglia News (913). 11,15 Anglia News (232596). 1.05am Filton: Detour to Terror (298829), 2.55am Enterteinment Now (5355349), 3.50am it's Christmas, it's Number One (9224542), 4.45-5.55am Film: Bowery Charges (304323).

THE RESYNDERSHIRE
As London except: 10.25am Regional News (5127157), 12.20pm Regional News (8112461), 3.20 Regional News (8693409), 5.10 Home and Away Special (2067490), 5.55 Tyne: Regional News (952935), 6.30 Blockbusters (913), 11.15 Re-

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gonal News, Weather (232596). 3.15am The Pana-sonic Sound Blast Awards 1995 (496455). 4.15-5.55am Film: Kavik the Wolf Dog (420962).

Lenten.
As London except: 10.25am Central News (5127157): 12.20pm Central News (8112461).
3.20 Central News (8693409). 5.10 Shortland Street (2067480). 6.00 Home and Away (524312).
6.25 Central News (658732). 11.15-11.20pm Central News and Weather (232596).

As London except: 10.25am Regional News (5127157). 12.20 Regional News (6112461). 12.55 Shortland Street (2955190). 1.25 Coronation Street (1824225). 3.20 West: Regional News, Weather (8693409). 5.10 A Country Practice (2067480). 6.30 West: Regional News (913). 11.15-71.20pm West: Regional News (232596)

As London except: 10.25am Meridian News and Weather (5127157). 12,20pm Meridian News and Weather (8112461), 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (8693409), 5.10 Home and Away Special (2067480), 6.00 Meridian Rollett (751), 6.30 Action Station (913), 11.15 Meridian News and Weather (232596), 1.05am Film: Detour to Terror (486542), 2.45am Entertainment Now (8842962), 3.50am It's Christmas, It's Number

One (9234542), 4.45-5.55am Film: Bowery Champs (3043233). MESTCOUNTRY As London except: 10,25am Westcountry News (5127157). 12,20pm Westcountry News (8112461). 3,20 Westcountry News, Weather (8693409), 5,10 Horne and Away Special (2067480), 6.00 Westcountry Live (751), 6.30 Drums in the Sun (913), 11.15-11.20pm West-

As C4 except: 11.45 Ken Russell's Treasure island (6773732). 1.00 Slot Meithrin (55954). 6.00 Newyddion (993428). 6.70 5 Pump: Uned 5 th (331428). 7.00 Ma Ifan Ma (519664). 7.50 Cyw Haul (530428). 8.20 Newyddion (360916). 8.30 Syr Itan Ab (8160393). 9.40 Fierce and Gentle Creatures (755288). 10.40 Film: A Private Function (17176577), 12.25-1,5am The Great Ape Trial (5751813).

IHE COLD

Radio

8,00am 5mon Mayo 12.00 Nicky Campbell 3.00 Dave Pearce 6.00 Newsbeat Review 95 7.00 Evening Session Rewind 9.00 Now That's What I Call Soundbite 10.00 REM Live at the Bowl 12.00 Mark Ton-derai 4.00-8.00am Claire Sturgess

6,00am Roger Royle 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00 Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn's The Gospel Train 10.30 The Martin Keiner Music Show 12.05 Sue Mc-Garry 3.00-6.00am Alex Lester

Radio 3 190.2-92.0Mb (NO

6.00am On Air. With Penny Gore. Paganini: Violin Concerto in B minor, Op 7 No 2. Mozart: Symphony No 40 in G minor. Rossini: Le Ceneratiola. Revenscroft:
The Three Ravens (Consort of Musicke). Haydin: Plano Soriata in G minor (H XVI 44). Gounod Petite Symptionle in 8 flat. 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Tchaikovsky, orch Stravinsky: Bluebird Pas de Deux

(The Sleeping Beauty), Rossini La Cenerentola, Mozart: Piano Sonata in A minor (K310). Prokofiev: Cinderella (Act 3) Piers Burton-Page. Hoist: This have I done for my true love.
Anist of the Week, Kirl te Kanawa (soprano). Ravel: Sheherazade.
Beethoven: Sonata in A fist, Op 110. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No 4 in G. Hadley: La belle

dame sans merci. Martin: Petite Symphonie Concertante. Holst: masters in this rail.

12.00 Composer of the Week:
Saint-Saens. Richard Langham
Smith follows a literary collinection, and discusses Saint-Saens' ters in this half. activities as scene painter, tran-Michel Nectowt

1.00 British Opera Matinee: Tom Jones. French comic opera by François-Andre Philidor based on Henry Fielding's picaresque novel. Cast includes Judith Howarth and Ann Archibold (sopranos), Sarah Walker (mezzo), Brian Burrows, Greg Fedderly snan burrows, oreg retuerly and Gordon Wilson (tenors). 3.20 Opus 20. Copland: Nonet. Nes: Hymn, Jolivet: Yin Yang. Copland: Quiet City. Honegger.

Symptony No 2.

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Bertroff's Macbeth (7.20pm R4) is the sinister one's radio debut - a doomy-sounding production that wasn't really worth the wait The Other Honours List (10.05pm R5) has Nick Hancock finding out how ordinary members of the public would distribute the gongs: will Hancock get an OBE for services to

5.00 The Music Machine. Tomm Pearson examines how the art of playing Indian classical music is often passed down from one gen-

Grant Llewellyn, Tasmin Little Ivi-olin). Alun Hoddinott: Lanterne des morts. Moeran: Violin Con-6.20 Musica Brittanica. Music in

1.30 Amsterdam Mahler Festival. Introduced by Humphrey Burton. Maŋana Lipovsek (controllo). Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra/Bernard Haitirik.

6 in A minor,
 9.45 The Fortunate Cat. (4/5).
 9.55 Byrd and Purcell. Phantasm perform a selection of Byrd in Nomines and Purcell Fantases

music from the age of 78rpm records, including works by Balle, Ireland and Brahms and

Radio 4 62.494.5Mt; PM; 198852130) 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day. 6.30 Today.

choice



the Fourth Test at 5t George's Park, Port Elizabeth. 9.05 (FM) The Moral Maze, 10.00 (FM) News; King Street Ju-

renewal and relaxation at a re-

treat in Dorset. (4/5). 11.00 (FM) News; Please Leave a

Message after the Bleep. 11.00 (LW) Test Match Special. 11.30 (FW) At Bertram's Hotel. (4/5).

12.00 (FM) News: Trumpton Riots. 12.25 (FM) Wordly Wise. Peter Hobday tests the etymological

wits of guests Germaine Green Simon Brett, Lorelei King and

1.00 The World at One. (FM only

1.30 (LW) Test Match Special.

1.40 (FM) The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 (FM) News; Theo. 2.01 (LW) Test Match Special.

3.30 (FM) Kaleidoscope. Playwright Arthur Miller talks to Christopher

Bigsby about the breakdown of his marriage to Marilyn Monroe, the play After the Fall and his

ongoing political activities. (3/4). 4.00 News

4.05 Radio Lives. Rock critic Robert Sandall profiles Kenny Everett. 4.45 Christmas Short Story: Dicky

spearean tracedy. See Choice.

5.00 PM.

5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather.

7.05 The Archers.

Richard Stilgoe.

eration to the next.
5.15 Farrest Isle Songbook.
5.30 The BBC Orchestras. BBC 10.00 (LW) News; Daily Service. 10.15 (FM) Children's BBC Radio 4: A Ghost for Christmas. (3/4). 10.30 (FM) Walters' Festive Frolics. John Walters finds time for self-National Orchestra of Wates/

the Purcell tradition recorded at Stationer's Hall, London. 8low: 0 sing unto the Lord a new song. Boyce: Overture: Ode for the New Year. Greene: Ode on St Cecilia's Day.

Kindertotenlieder; Symphony No

on period instruments. 10.45 The Shellac Show. Jeremy performances by Kathleen Ferner, John Ireland and Clemens

11.30-12.30am The 8BC Philharmonic/Jerzy Maksymiuk. Borodin: Symptony No 2 in 8 minor.

8.40 A Christmas Carol. (4/5). 9.00 (FM) News. 9.00 (LW) Test Match Special. Cov-

erage of the third day's play in

Radio 5

coe on Five 4.00 John Invertile Na-tionwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 On the Line 8.05 Women on Top 9.05

Classic FM 1100 9-101.99kk FM

Children's Overture, 3.00 Jamie usins of the Guthorial School of Music and Drama, Students of the Royal Conservatory, The Haguerton Koopman, 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00 Saffy Peterson 4.00-6.00am Mark Griffiths.

6.00 5ix O'Clock News. 6.15 It's Your Go! (2/4). 6.30 Old Harry's Game. 7.20 Berkoff's Macbeth. Steven Berkoff makes his radio drama debut with David Benedictus's

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. A look a the British film location Industry. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Memo from David O Selznick. (4/5).

Disaster. (9/15). 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

6.00am Nick Balley 9.00 Mike Read 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00 Lunchtime Family Concert. Quillen Crick 6.00 Classic Newsright 6.30 Sonata. Totalkovsky: Plano Sonata in C sharp minor 7.00 Classic Travel Guide 8.00 Classic FM Evening

Virgin Radio

(1984lt DI)

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. A look at

11.00 Ray Bradbury Introduces
Tales of the Bizarre. Bradbury's
short story The Fruit at the Bettom of the Bowl read by the author furnself. 14/6).
11.30 (FM) Ad Ub.

603.969kk km)
6.05sm Hold the Front Page 7.00
The Breaklast Programme 8.35 The
Magazine 11.05 VII set My Hat
11.35 Pioneers and Presidents
12.00 Midday with Mair 2.05 Rus-

Concert. Purcell: King Arthur. Stu-dents of the Guildhall School of Mu-

(12)5, 1197-126(lek Mr IIE.Mek No. 6.00am Robin Banks 10.00 Gra-ham Dane 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coyts 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00-5.00am Janey Lee Grace

12.00 News. 12.30 Christmas Late Story: Oicky

the Line 3.05 Women on 1op 9.05
SportsAmerica 10.05 The Other Honours List. See Choice, 11.05 Ages of Being 11.35 Spoced Out 12.05
Night Moves 2.05 Up all Night 5.056.00am The Other Honours List

6.00am Showcase (97751). 8.00 Farewell My Lovely (1944). Classic thilles starring Dick Powell as private sye Philip Marlowe (62770). 10.00 Two for the Road (1967). Romantic two for the rood (1967). Romanuc cornedy, A couple by to save their marriage while on holiday in Franca. Starring Audrey Hepburn (38664). 12.00 Hot Shotel Part Daux (1993). Cornedy starting Charlie Sheen (604995), 1.50 The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm (1962). (99056409), 4.00 Samural Cowboy (1993). Culture-clash cornedy drama about a Tokyo worker who becomes a cowboy (7.461). 6.00 Addams Family Values (1993). Cornedy starring Anjetica Huston and Raul Julia. Mortheir new baby, but she spends more time scheming how she can get her hands on Fester's fortune than she

World Service 1.00 World News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Choirs of Angels 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsday 2.30 30 Minute Drama: A Child's Christmas in Wales 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Off the Shelf: Short Story 4.45 Folk Routes 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Quote, Unquote

9.00 Only When I Laugh. Or not (9645).
9.30 ISSE Edward Scissonhands (Tim Burton 1990 US).
Memorable, partially-successful fallytale, starring

John Malkouch (left) has the man

(1993). Thriller starring Tim Daly (4667707). 4.05-6.00am Two for the Road (1967). Romantic comedy

A couple try to save their marriage while on holiday in France, Staming Audrey Hepburn (458610).

6.00em A Time to Heal (1994).

Drama based on the true story of a troubled marriage. Stars Nicholiette Sheridan (95393). 8.00 The Jessons

Meet the Flintstones (1987). Animat-

Meet the Flintstones (1967). Animated fun for all the family (60312).

10,00 Rebeccs of Sunnybrook Farm (1938). Musical starting Strinley Ferriple (36206). 12,00 Gungs Din (1939). Classic adventure story with Cary Grant (50935). 2,00 Seduced by Edi (1994). Supernatural chiller

about a reporter who encounters a sinister magician (80041), 4.00 Yogi Bear and the Magic Flight of the

Spruce Goose. Yogi and Boo-Boo take a round-the-world flight (5003), 6.00 MacGyver: The Lost Treasure of At-

Blassed. When MacGyver's former ar-chaeology professor, Jeffery Atticus claims that the lost oxy of Atlantis re-

ally did exist, the pair join forces to track down the Ark which will prove

his theories. (77577). 8.00 The Pa-

his theories. (77577). 8.00 The Pa-per (1994). Cornedy-drama starring ... Michael Keabon and Glenn Closa. Heavy Hackett, the metro editor at the siling New York Sun, finds hitn-self at odds with his managing editor Alicia Clark and editor Bernie White, not to mention his heavily pregnant

lantis (1994). Drama starring

Richard Dean Anderson and Brian

MONTE CHANNEL

mont in Dangerous Liasons. He brings the same sense of danger to his role as a wacko faunting secret-service agent Clint Fastwood in Wolfgang Petersen's admirably taut Guiller, in the Line of Fire (10.30pm Movie Charmel). Comedy starring Robert Carradina and Cartis Armstrong. The loveable nerds of the original 1984 hit head out to Fort Lauderdale for a fratemity wife Marty. (72022). 10.00 The Movie Show (11409), 10.30 in the Movie Stow (17409), 10.30 in the Line of Fire (1993). Thriller starring Clint Eastwood and John Mellowich. A jaded Secret Service agent, who failed to protect President Kennedy in 1963, out to Fort Lauderdale for a fratemity conference set against the sun, sand and surf of America's most popular beach resort (327969), 1,05 Choices of the Heart. The Mangaret Sanger Story (1994). Historical drama about the life of the eponymous nurse who was falled for publishing birth control advice. Starring Dana Delany (9782968). 2,35 Dangarous Heart (1993). Thriller starring Tim Daly is determined to protect the current in cumbent from a crazed and highly professional trained assassin. See Choice (10326003). 12.40 The Red

Cross 1705-2003). 12-40 the Ren Shoe Diaries No 4: Auto Erotics (1993) (6456691). 2.05 Selgon (1988). Thritter following the exploits of seriel killer Willem Delbe (278500). 3.50-6.00am With Harmful Intent. (1993). Psychological thriller statution Van Ark (12777165). SXY MOVES GOIN 4.00pm The Devil Is a Woman (1935). Drama starring Mariene Olet-rich (6393). 6.00 High Society (1956). Musical starring Grace Kelly and Bing Crosty. A beautiful woman is about to get married to a conceite man. But her plans are thrown into disarray by her ex-husband and a re-porter (Frank Sinatra) who's arrives in town to cover the ceremony. (68867). 8.00 The President's Analyst (1967). Witty sidewards glance at American politics and esplonage from the perspective of a psychiatrist who is appointed to counsel the president. Stars James Coburn. (63312), 10.00 First Blood (1982), John Rambo (Sylvester Stallone) is a Viet-nam veteran who returns to America as an outsider and finds frimself on the wrong side of the local sheriff. He is arrested on a trumped up charge, but escapes and takes to the moun-tains where he causes havoc with the tams where he causes havoc with the pursuing lawmen. (701022), 11.45
Firecreek (1968). Western starring James Stewart and Henry Fonda. A sheriff has to defent a nutiless garg of vittains singlehandelly. (790206), 1.30-3.50am Frances (1982). Blopic of tragic thirties movie star General Scarces Contraction has the causes.

Frances Farmer, charting her time spent in a barbaric lunatic asylum.

Starring Jessica Lange, Kim Stanley and Bart Burns (77704233).

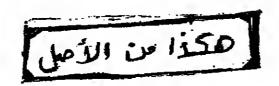
Neighbours (1234577). 8.00 Sons and Daughters (9708022). 8.30 EastEnders (9707393). 9.00 The Bill (9798645). 9.30 The Sullive (1647954). 10.00 All Creatures Great and Small (1223461), 11.00 Dallas (1243225), 12.00 Sons and Daughters (9718409). 12.30 Neighbours (1641770). 1.00 EastEnders (1247041). 1.30 The Bill (1640041), 2.00 The Sullivans (72492503). 2.25 Are You Being Served? (3738225). 3.00 Angels (7634663). 3.30 Eldorado (8240645). 4.00 Miss Marole (95575374). 5.05 Larry Grayson's Generation Game (41892664). 6.15 Kenny's Comac Cuts (6024480). 6.25 EastEnders (2684428), 7.00 Eldorado (7626664), 7.30 The Liver Birds (8259393). 8.00 George and Mildred (7635312). 8.30 What a Carry On! (7621119), 9.00 Minder (5083428), 10.00 The Bill (6824041), 10.35 Classic Sport (1648480). 11.35 KYTV (8604954). 12.10 Dr Who (2782078). 12.40 Film: Tarzan the Ape Man (9039851). 2.30-7.00am

7.00am Angels (1248770), 7.30

Shopping at Night (9213417). 7.00am Sky Sports Centre (27119) 7.30 Racing News (39954), 8.00 Test Match Criclet: South Africa v England (5264393), 3.30 WDC World Darts Championships (418751). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (3157). 6.30 World of Rugby Union (4409). 7.00 WDC World Darts Championships (116041), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (20732), 10.30 WDC World Darts Championships (59358), 12.00 World of Rugby Union (12252), 12.30 Sports Unlimited (42756), 130.2 Open 1 ited (42726). 1.30-2.00am Sky Sports Centre (99418).

SAY SPORTS 2 7.00pm The Rugby Club (6161003), 8.00 International Crick-et Highlights (5029393), 11.00 The Rugby Club (9424567), 12.00 Skiff ng (3919691). 12.30-1.00am Powerboat World (8906610). EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (68044). 8.30 roski (43683). 9.00 Tennis (95157). 10.00 Cycling (20206). 11.00 Footbell (33770). 12.00 Triethion (48751), 1,30 Truck Racing (17409), 2,30 ice Hockey (434799). (17409), 2.50 los Hockey (434/59), 5.00 Ski Jumping (3041), 6.00 Equestria (87138), 7.30 Eu-rosport News (8461), 8.00 Pro Wresting (16480), 9.00 Football (26867), 11.00 Got (21935), 12.00, 12.30 Europoet News (64720) 12.30am Eurosport News (64720).



A new sporting face for 1996

PREMIERSHIP: Cole goal against his former club sets Ferguson's men on their way as lead is cut to seven points

Rampant United reopen title debate

Newcastle United

Maybe it was the sight of the black-and-white that inspired him, or perhaps he is a big occasion player after all. Whatever the reason for Andy Cole's rediscovery of his scoring touch at Old Trafford last night, his timing was richly ironic.

Cole's expertly-taken sixthminute goal was the catalyst for the defeat of his old club. Newcastle United, by his current one. Manchester United. The win. which was sealed by Roy Keane after 52 minutes, breathes life into a championship race that Newcastle were threatening to

TOP TWO

top, but their lead is now a recoverable seven points, not the irretrievable 13, which beckoned

vesterday evening.
The circumstances had hardly been ideal for United going into a match of such significance to the championship. They had just endured their worst League run in more than three years. and both their first-choice centre-backs, Steve Bruce and Gary Pallister, and Paul Parker were all ruled out. Alex Ferguson paired Gary Neville and David May in the heart of the defence. with Denis Irwin switching to right-back and Philip Neville operating on the left of the back

To increase the tension on a cold night of driving snow. there were cuntests within game. The French pair, Newcastle's David Ginola and United's Eric Cantona, were meeting in the Premiership for the first time, and Cole and Keith Gillespie, both appearing against their former teams for the first time since swapping

At least United had Ryan Giggs fit after a foot injury ruled him out of the defeat at Leeds on Sunday. United's fifth game in a row without a win, and the Welsh international demon- through to Cole on the right

No. 2868. Thursday 28 December

1 Go to pot (4)

3 In each place that Welsh

hearts appear, there's a

reversion to worship (8)

11 Combination of "it" and

12 "Very good! " - but not "Well done!" (4)

13 Article reviewed concert

17 Cut hard work which in-

19 Urge boss to become a

member of Mensa? (7)

20 Where Major eats jam (4)

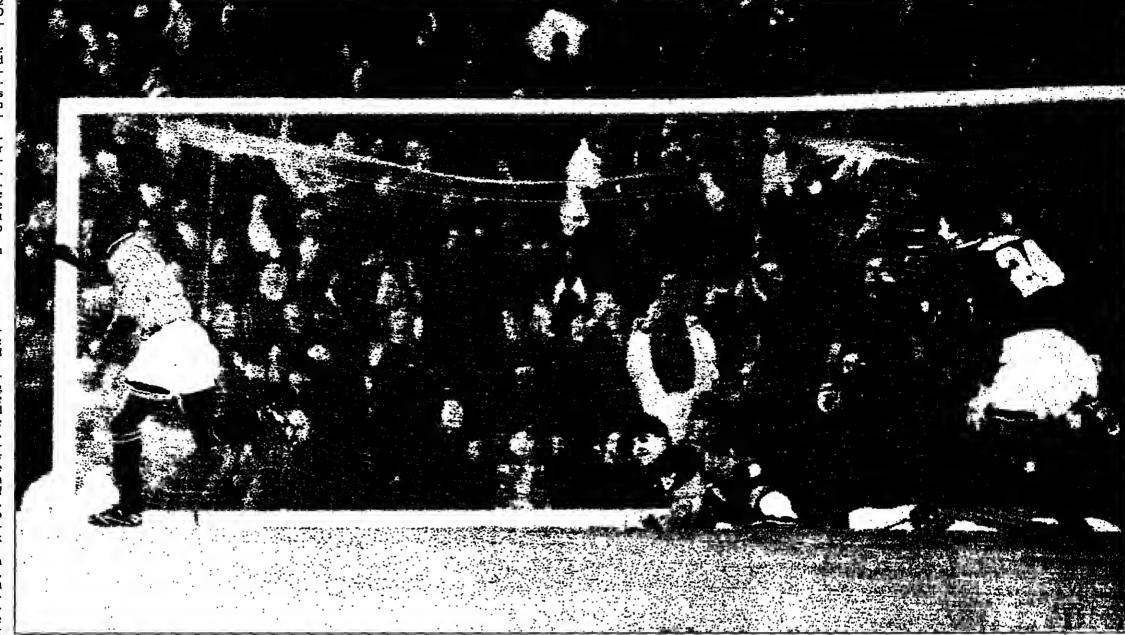
21 Lying last month turned 6

15 Jerk, child! Jerk! (6)

volves strain (6)

out futile (9)

shyness is unfortunate (9)



Victory salute: Manchester United's Andy Cole (left) enjoys his moment of triumph after opening the scoring against his former team at Old Trafford last night

strated his value after only six

He launched a swift counterattack deep into the left of Newcastle's territory, and used a defence-splitting dummy run by Cantona, captain in Bruce's absence, to feed a perfect pass

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ures which arise (3,6,4,2)

25 Make a "morning-after"

co?(8)

10 Clearing an overdraft ear- 26 Place a bet on the Sab-

check in San Francis-

bath and make a killing

DOWN

It could be curtains for

Cerberus had this bit of

audio equipment (7)

Aid for the Rover's Re-

Chambers: one only used

by half-hearted person!

2 Fibre made by man?

Close (5)

turn? (9.5)

edeg of the penalty area. He simply drilled a first-time shot across Pavel Smicek and inside the far post.

That was just the incentive United needed to put intense pressure on a Newcastle de-fence that had John Beresford back at left-back in place of the

Tree-kangaroo emits a

An hour in toolshed, then

repositioned by the front

Salamis cooked without

16 Grown-up's hanky-panky?

tor's called in to the ailing

18 Piece produced as doc-

22 Beefy gangster's deadly

for the masses (6)

the aid of a book written

stink (4)

Sweden in record attempt 14 Permanent tax has inside

door (2,3,9))

support (9)

Monet? (7)

19 A tax cut? (6)

23 Rest period (4)

injured Belgian, Philippe Albert. It had needed a superb covertackle from Peacock to deny Keane after Cantona had played the Irishman in, and Keane then tested Smicek twice more with shots from the edge

of the Newcastle box. Gillespie had little chance to level up his contest with Cole. A fierce challenge by Philip sulted in the Northern Ireland international being carried off.

STILL UNDECIDED...

For all their symbolic significance, the recent history of Premiership games between the top two suggests they will not be crucial in deciding the destiny of the championship

Man Utri ... _____1 Blackbara ____0 Blackburn won dile by one point

Man Utd __ 2 Man Utd Manchester Utd won title by eight points

2892/93 _____ Men Voi ______ 0

Mag Utd

Newcastle struggled early on to fulfil their intention to attack, but, with Steve Watson, on for Gillespie, a threat on the right and Ginola more prominent, they began to hold their own. However, Peter Schmeichel, in the United goal, was not troubled until the 28th minute when Steve Howey set Les Ferdinand

free. Cole's firm replacement

shot powerfully but the ball de-

red, before realising and apologising to Beresford. Newcastle in the 38th minute, chel's leg and away for a corner. out, but the odds seemed to tip goal.

Ferdinand could have lifted

Newcastle were in no mood

to lauch off a potentially cost-

ly error by the referee, Paul Al-cock, who booked Warren

their way when May was carried off just before half-time. Brian McClair replaced him after the interval, with Keane dropping into defence United did not see it that way,

and eight minutes after the

Barton early on and then showed the yellow card to Beresford. Mistaking him for Barton, he followed it with a restart they went 2-0 up. Keane, up for a corner that was only half-cleared, arrived in space on the right of the penalty area to meet a diagonal pass by Philip flected off the inside of Schmei- but Gary Neville crowded him Neville and drive in the second

Keegan sent on Paul Kitson for the last 17 minutes in thehope of opening up a new line of attack, but his side still never looked likely to stave off their third Premiership defeat of the season.

(McCair, h-t), & Neulle, P Neulle, Beckham, Giggs, Cole, Cambona, S auct wasd: McGibbon, Scholes,

Outlook bleak for Scottish game

Scottish football is facing a elsewhere. Gerry Collins, the weekend "white-out", with the Falkirk assistant manager, ruled antic weather conditions unlikely to loosen their grip on the country before then.

Only two Scottish League grounds - Ibrox and Tannadice, which both have undersoil heating - were able to stage matches on Boxing Day, and the situation on Saturday looks

likely to be the same. Rangers are due to entertain Hibernian in the only Premier Division match with any realistic chance of being staged, while Dundee United are scheduled to meet Airdrie in

the First Division.

out his club's Premier Division fixture against Motherwell. There is no chance [of playing the game] unless there is a dramatic change in the weather," Collins said. "We have covers on the pitch and snow on top, but

the ground is bone-hard." At Tynecastle, where Hearts were hoping to entertain Celtic, the chairman, Chris Robinson said: "The pitch is covered but is hard, and there's no real chance of the game being on. We will confirm on Friday whether it can go ahead or not."

home game staged on 2 December. The next Tynecastle fure on 10 January.

Robinson, whose club are reported to be struggling finan-

going nearly six weeks without any gate receipts, with their last

funds will be a big strain and we

The match's postponement against Rangers on 3 January many midweek matches sched.

There was a gloomy outlook will mean the Edinburgh club John Hughes and Peter Grant uled over the next few months."

hours. But there is obviously

much on Paul for a breakthrough

at the end. The ball was proba-

prospect and a great challenge

the second innings.

more game to sit out as part of match is likely to be the Kilmannock are hoping the rescheduled Motherwell fix. use of hot air covers can clear Rugby Park for Saturday's visit of Aberdeen.

A Scottish Football League cially, added: "The lack of spokesman, Hamsh Walker, funds will be a big strain and we said there were lew expectastand to lose up to £30,000 if tions that the cold snap will Saturday's game is postponed. force a major fixture backlog But we have to manage our fi-Walker said: "We have already nances and get on with it." rescheduled games for January If the match is postponed it 9, 10, 16 and 17 and, while post-will give Celtic selection prob-ponements obviously cause lems for the "Old Firm" game headaches, there are not too.

Gallian is game middle man

Cricket

Jason Gallian responded with another dead but when asked whether England have got the measure of the unorthodox South Africa spinner, Paul Adams. The answer may well decide whether England -40 for 1 against South Africa's 428 all out - avoid defeat in the fourth Test in Port Elizabeth.

but Gallian was not prepared to put his neck on the block. "We will find out tomor-

man who, with the England captain, Mike Atherton, managed to keep Adams at bay for seven overs late on the second evening. Gallian showed mounting confidence as he tackled the 18-year-old debutant, clipping him for two boundaries having earlier settled for watchful defence.

row," said the Lancashire bats-

"I was a bit nervous when I walked out to bat, but playing Test cricket is a big challenge and I enjoyed it." said Gallian, who only arrived in South

Africa last week to replace John Crawley. "We've certainly got a hard fight ahead of us," added Gallian.

But it is a good batting pitch and if we can get a stack of runs we can get back at them."

When England bowl again they will be without Mark Hott.

The left-arm paceman limped off in mid-afternoon. "He has strained a muscle in the middle

of his left thigh," John Barclay, the assistant manager, said. "Like all injuries it will be easier to tell how bad it is after 24.

icketkeeping to him." Meanwhile, England's oneday specialists, Neil Fairbroth-Dermot Reeve and Neil Smith, have arrived in South Africa and will be joined on Saturday by Craig White and Philip DeFreitas. The seven-match one-day series between the two



Adams: Stirring debut

countries begins in Cape Town on 9 January. England's chances of winning the current Test are now put at 33-1 with the draw the favourite at 2-5 and South Africa at 7-4. The series stands at 0-0. Report, scoreboard, page 22

SOME INSURANCE QUOTES ARE SO HIGH, YOU'D THINK THEY DIDN'T WANT YOUR BUSINESS. [THEY DON'T.]